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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

HARUE CRAIG,
Plaintiff,
v.
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 17-CV-02115-LHK

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Re: Dkt. No. 49

Plaintiff Harue Craig (“Mrs. Craig”) brings this suit against Defendants County of Santa Clara and Santa Clara Sheriff’s Department Sergeant Douglas Ulrich (“Sgt. Ulrich”) (collectively, “Defendants”) for the shooting of Eugene Craig. Before the Court is Defendants’ motion to summary judgment. ECF No. 49 (“Mot.”). Having considered the parties’ briefing, the relevant law, and the record in the case, the Court GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Defendants’ motion for summary judgment.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Factual Background

This case arises from the fatal shooting of Plaintiff Harue Craig’s husband, Eugene Craig (“Mr. Craig”), by Sgt. Ulrich on September 12, 2016.

1 **1. Initial 911 Call and Welfare Check**

2 On September 12, 2016, the Craigs' granddaughter, Elizabeth Craig ("Elizabeth"), who
3 lives in Arizona, called 911. Def. Ex. K¹ (911 call transcript), ECF No. 54-1; Def. Ex. K-1 (audio
4 recording of 911 call). Elizabeth explained that she had not spoken to her "elderly grandfather"
5 for a week and that she had been trying unsuccessfully to reach him all day. Def. Ex. K at 1:5-6,
6 2:21-22. Elizabeth stated that her inability to reach Mr. Craig was unusual because typically he
7 answered the phone quickly or, if he missed the call, returned her call as soon as he got home. *Id.*
8 at 5:6-9. Elizabeth added that she expected her grandfather to be at home with her grandmother,
9 Mrs. Craig. *Id.* at 4:12-15. In response to a question by the dispatcher, Elizabeth stated that Mr.
10 Craig had previously had heart surgery and that Mrs. Craig had previously suffered a stroke. *Id.* at
11 4:8-15. Elizabeth requested that someone go check on Mr. Craig "to see if he's okay." *Id.* at 1:5-
12 6. Elizabeth stated that if the Craigs' silver Nissan Altima was in the garage, the Craigs would be
13 at home. *Id.* at 1:22-24, 3:21-23. The dispatcher then requested that Deputy Alan Reyes conduct
14 a welfare check of the Craigs' address, 12132 Titus Avenue in Saratoga, California. Def. Ex. L,
15 ECF No. 54-3 (radio dispatch transcript) at 1:4-8; Def. Ex. M-1 (audio of radio dispatch) at 00:00-
16 00:39.

17 Deputy Donald Weyhrauch heard the dispatcher's request and arrived at the Craigs' house
18 first. Def. Ex. A, ECF No. 55-1 (Weyhrauch Dep.) at 10:16-11:1. Deputy Weyhrauch knocked on
19 the front door "and rang the doorbell and announced 'sheriff's office' in a loud voice." *Id.* at
20 13:10-15. In response, Deputy Weyhrauch heard someone say "hel-," which Deputy Weyhrauch
21 initially interpreted as "hello." *Id.* at 13:16-24. However, no one answered the door, and so
22 Deputy Weyhrauch waited, then knocked again, and then said "sheriff's office" again. *Id.* at 19:9-
23 17. Deputy Weyhrauch then knocked on a window near the front door, and "[a]fter a second or
24 third knock, there was a – sort of a crashing sound coming from the kitchen area, just on the other
25 side of the window [he] had knocked on." *Id.* at 19:19-23. Deputy Weyhrauch hypothesized that

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¹ Both parties identified exhibits using letters. For clarity, the Court will refer to Defendants'
27 exhibits as "Def. Ex." and Plaintiff's exhibits as "Pl. Ex."
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1 the crashing sound may have been someone falling inside the home. *Id.* at 20:1-10, 20:22-21:15.
2 However, according to Sgt. Ulrich, Deputy Weyhrauch also characterized the crashing sound as “a
3 cup or something small fall[ing] in the background.” Pl. Ex. A, ECF No. 60-1 at 66:11-14
4 (quotation from unspecified report read to Sgt. Ulrich during his deposition). Deputy Weyhrauch
5 continued to wait, knock, and announce “sheriff’s office” for several more minutes. Weyhrauch
6 Dep. at 19:24-20:1, 21:16-22:2. At some point, Deputy Weyhrauch realized that the “hel-” could
7 have been “help,” not “hello.” *Id.* at 13:16-14:2, 27:25-28:2.

8 After Deputy Weyhrauch had been at the house for three to five minutes, Deputy Reyes
9 arrived. *Id.* at 21:23-22:2. Deputy Veronica Laguardia also arrived. *Id.* at 22:14-16; Def. Ex. B
10 (Laguardia Dep.), ECF No. 55-2 at 19:20-24. Deputy Laguardia knocked on the front door
11 “[n]umerous times” and announced “sheriff’s office,” but no one responded. Laguardia Dep. at
12 20:22-21:6. Deputy Laguardia then called Elizabeth to ask if there was any other place the Craigs
13 might be. *Id.* at 22:22-23:12. Elizabeth responded that if the Craigs’ car was in the garage, as
14 Deputy Weyhrauch had already confirmed it was, then the Craigs should be home. *Id.* at 23:13-
15 15. Elizabeth also stated again that Mr. Craig had had heart problems, but Elizabeth did not
16 specify what type of heart problems. *Id.* at 24:1-6. After speaking to Elizabeth, Deputy Laguardia
17 knocked on the front door yet again, but no one responded. *Id.* at 24:23-25:5.

18 Deputies Weyhrauch, Reyes, and Laguardia then went to the house to the left of the
19 Craigs’ and spoke with Karen and Steve Akimoto, the Craigs’ friends and neighbors. Weyhrauch
20 Dep. at 12:8-15, 32:1-9; Laguardia Dep. at 27:7-14. The Akimots told the officers that Mrs.
21 Craig sometimes went for walks by herself, but Mr. Craig typically stayed at home because of his
22 heart issues. Laguardia Dep. at 27:18-21. The Akimots noted that they heard someone moving
23 the Craigs’ trash can to the curb that day, which indicated that the Craigs were home. *Id.* at 29:1-
24 16; Def. Ex. C (K. Akimoto Dep.), ECF No. 55-3 at 29:24-30:5, 31:9-12, 50:1-6; Def. Ex. F
25 (Reyes Dep.), ECF No. 55-6 at 26:11-21. Mrs. Akimoto recalls that she heard the trash cans being
26 moved around 6:00 p.m. K. Akimoto Dep. at 30:1-5.

27 While Deputy Laguardia continued to speak with the Akimots, Deputy Weyhrauch

1 returned to the Craigs' home to see if he could "see in a window or get a better understanding of
2 what was going on in the home." Weyhrauch Dep. at 23:20-21. Deputy Weyhrauch jumped over
3 the fence separating the back yard from the front yard and "[a]s soon as [he] went in that
4 backyard, [he] began loudly identifying [him]self repeatedly" because he did "not want to startle a
5 homeowner in their backyard on their own turf." *Id.* at 23:22-24:5. Deputy Weyhrauch "walked
6 around the entire perimeter knocking on doors and windows" and "repeatedly calling out 'sheriff's
7 office'" and "Eugene." *Id.* at 24:13-19. The windows were blocked by heavy drapes so Deputy
8 Weyhrauch could not see inside the house, but he could tell that the lights were on inside the
9 house. *Id.* at 24:19-21, 25:4-11. Deputy Weyhrauch circled the house three or four times and
10 continued to knock, call out "sheriff's office," and used his flashlight to try to see into the house.
11 *Id.* at 36:25-37:11.

12 Meanwhile, the Akimotos provided Deputy Laguardia with the phone number of the
13 Craigs' family friend Jim Marshall, whom Deputy Laguardia then called. Laguardia Dep. at 32:1-
14 9. According to Deputy Laguardia, Mr. Marshall believed that the Craigs should be at home and
15 was concerned that the deputies were having difficulty reaching the Craigs. *Id.* at 33:11-20. Mr.
16 Marshall was particularly concerned for Mrs. Craig, because Mr. Marshall had recently witnessed
17 Mr. Craig threaten to hit Mrs. Craig's head against the car if she didn't retrieve a gift from their
18 car more quickly. *Id.* at 33:20-34:1; *see also* Def. Ex. U (Laguardia Interview), ECF No. 52:1 at
19 24:23-6 (same); Def. Ex. O (transcript of phone interview with Mr. Marshall), ECF No. 54-8 at
20 10:3-16 (same); Def. Ex. D (Marshall Dep.), ECF No. 55-4 at 26:1-7. In addition, Mr. Marshall
21 mentioned that he and another friend, Ron Roberts, had "had some funny feelings about how the
22 end of life was gonna happen with [Mr. Craig] and his wife." Def. Ex. O at 6:25-7:1.
23 Specifically, Mr. Craig had made "a lot of strange comments" that caused Mr. Marshall and Mr.
24 Roberts to believe that Mr. Craig "was not gonna let that little lady ever end her life all by herself
25 . . . if something happened to him [they] thought [Mr. Craig] was gonna take her with him." *Id.* at
26 7:6-12. As a result, when Mr. Marshall heard that the Craigs were not responding to knocks on
27 their door or phone calls, Mr. Marshall "thought uh oh, this is it, man. They're – they're dead in

1 the house.” *Id.* at 7:12-15; *see also id.* at 15:19-21 (Mr. Marshall acknowledging in phone
2 interview the day after the shooting that he mentioned a murder-suicide scenario to Deputy
3 Laguardia); Marshall Dep. at 27:21-29:2 (Mr. Marshall stating in his deposition 14 months after
4 the shooting that he did not recall mentioning a murder-suicide scenario to Deputy Laguardia but
5 stating that “it wouldn’t surprise me one bit if I did say it” and then stating “I have some slight
6 recollection of something like that, yes”). Mr. Marshall also mentioned that Mr. Craig had heart
7 issues. Laguardia Dep. at 34:24.

8 After speaking with Mr. Marshall, Deputy Laguardia relayed what she had learned to
9 Deputies Weyhrauch and Reyes. Weyhrauch Dep. at 25:12-26:15. The officers requested that
10 dispatch do a firearms check to determine whether Mr. Craig had any registered firearms.
11 Weyhrauch Dep. at 42:20-43:3; Def. Ex. L at 8:14-18 (dispatch radio transcript); Def. Ex. M-1 at
12 36:36-37:03 (audio of dispatch radio request). Deputy Laguardia again knocked on the Craigs’
13 front door. Laguardia Dep. at 36:9-19, 37:9-16. At some point, Deputy Laguardia used her
14 flashlight to knock on the door in an attempt to make the knock louder to make sure the Craigs
15 could hear the knocking. *Id.* at 36:16-19. When there was still no response, Mr. Akimoto
16 retrieved what he believed to be a spare key to the Craigs’ home and also knocked on the Craigs’
17 front door and called out “Hi, it’s your neighbor Steve,” but no one answered. *Id.* at 37:13-22;
18 Def. Ex. G (S. Akimoto Dep.), ECF No. 55-7 at 11:16-12:13. Mr. Akimoto then tried to open the
19 Craigs’ front door with a spare key, but the key did not work. Laguardia Dep. at 31:3-10, 37:18-
20 22; K. Akimoto Dep. at 33:6-15; S. Akimoto Dep. at 10:25-11:9; Reyes Dep. at 27:20-25, 28:19-
21 22. After that, Mr. Akimoto circled the house, as did Deputy Weyhrauch and Deputy Laguardia.
22 Mr. Akimoto and the officers continued to call out and knocked on the sliding glass door in the
23 back of the house. S. Akimoto Dep. at 16:13-17:14; Reyes Dep. at 28:5-29:8; Laguardia Dep. at
24 38:11-23, 39:17-19, 41:7-11. No one responded. Deputy Laguardia lay on her stomach next to
25 the sliding glass door to try to see under the curtains, but was unable to see into the house.
26 Laguardia Dep. at 38:25-39:8.

27 After circling the house, the officers “received the firearms returns from dispatch,” which
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1 indicated that Mr. Craig had multiple registered firearms. Laguardia Dep. at 41:18-23; Weyhrauch
2 Dep. at 42:25-43:3; Def. Ex. L at 8:24-9:2 (transcript of dispatch reporting that Mr. Craig had
3 “lots of guns registered to him,” including a revolver, two semiautomatic pistols, a Colt
4 semiautomatic pistol, and a modified pistol); Def. Ex. M-1 at 39:15-39:49 (audio of radio dispatch
5 stating same). Deputy Laguardia then called Elizabeth a second time to ask again whether there
6 were any other places that the Craigs could be or any other phone numbers that they used.
7 Laguardia Dep. at 42:10-23. Elizabeth became upset, started to cry, and told Deputy Laguardia
8 that “something bad happened between her grandparents – her grandfather, but she didn’t want to
9 get into the details as far as what happened.” *Id.* at 42:23-43:5; Def. Ex. E (Ulrich Dep.), ECF No.
10 55-5 at 38:4-17. Deputy Laguardia asked Elizabeth if Elizabeth wanted the officers to make entry
11 into the home, but Elizabeth did not respond because she was upset. Laguardia Dep. at 43:15-21,
12 44:16-21. Deputy Reyes spoke with the neighbors to the right of the Craigs’ house, the Faxons,
13 but they had just returned from vacation and had no other information to offer besides providing
14 the Craigs’ phone number, which the officers already had. Reyes Dep. at 29:17-30:23. When the
15 officers requested earlier that dispatch call the Craigs’ phone number, the phone rang fifteen times
16 and no one answered it. Ulrich Dep. at 22:22-25; Ex. L at 4:8-9; Def. Ex. M-1 at 09:55-10:00
17 (request that dispatch call the Craigs’ home phone); Def. Ex. M-2 (audio of phone ringing without
18 answer); Def. Ex. T (Weyhrauch Interview), ECF No. 53-1 at 17:11-17 (Deputy Weyhrauch
19 stating that he heard the phone ringing inside the house). The dispatcher reported back to Deputy
20 Reyes that “the phone just rings.” Def. Ex. L at 4:16.

21 Deputies Weyhrauch, Laguardia, and Reyes eventually determined that they should force
22 entry of the Craigs’ home. Weyhrauch Dep. at 38:2-13; Laguardia Dep. at 47:20-48:23. The
23 deputies cited two reasons for deciding that a forced entry was necessary. Weyhrauch Dep. at
24 30:1-7, 38:5-13, 46:4-12; Laguardia Dep. at 55:22-58:1. First, there were facts to suggest that one
25 or both of the Craigs was in the midst of a medical emergency that prevented them from
26 answering the door. Facts that supported this scenario included, according to Deputies Weyhrauch
27 and Laguardia, the Craigs’ advanced age and medical histories, that Elizabeth had been unable to

1 reach the Craigs by phone, the crashing noise that Deputy Weyhrauch heard, the initial response to
2 Deputy Weyhrauch's knocking that could have been someone saying "help," and the Craigs'
3 failure to answer the door despite the prolonged and persistent knocking. Weyhrauch Dep. at
4 29:22-31:9, 32:22-33:17; Laguardia Dep. at 35:13-24, 49:2-6, 56:2-57:6. Second, the deputies
5 believed that there may have been domestic violence that resulted in the injury or death of one or
6 both of the Craigs. Facts that supported the domestic violence scenario included, according to
7 Deputies Weyhrauch and Laguardia, that Elizabeth had been unable to reach the Craigs by phone,
8 the crashing noise that Deputy Weyhrauch heard, the initial response to Deputy Weyhrauch's
9 knocking that could have been someone saying "help," the Craigs' failure to answer the door
10 despite the prolonged and persistent knocking, Elizabeth's comments about recent turmoil
11 between her grandparents, and Mr. Marshall's comments about a potential murder-suicide
12 scenario. Weyhrauch Dep. at 27:23-28:5; Laguardia Dep. at 55:22-56:15, 57:13-58:1; *see also*
13 Ulrich Dep. at 49:12-51:6 (citing same facts and also discussing facts suggesting that the Craigs
14 were home).

15 Sgt. Ulrich arrived on the scene at approximately 8:24 p.m., after the officers had been on
16 the scene for between twenty minutes and an hour but before the officers attempted to force entry
17 into the Craigs' home. Weyhrauch Dep. at 37:23-25, 38:2-13; Laguardia Dep. at 40:9-18; Reyes
18 Dep. at 33:19-25; Ulrich Dep. at 31:9. Sgt. Ulrich reviewed the situation with the deputies.
19 Ulrich Dep. at 33:11-34:6; Laguardia Dep. at 48:7-12, 48:24-49:18; Weyhrauch Dep. at 39:1-
20 41:12. Sgt. Ulrich agreed with the deputies' assessment that they should force entry of the Craigs'
21 home. Weyhrauch Dep. at 39:14-17. The officers then donned ballistic helmets and Deputy
22 Weyhrauch donned a vest with ballistic panels. Weyhrauch Dep. at 47:4-21, 48:23-25.

23 Another friend of the Craigs', Ron Roberts, then arrived. Mr. Roberts wanted to try
24 knocking on the Craigs' door, but the officers "wouldn't talk to [Mr. Roberts]," told him to "get
25 away," and commented that there was "a fanatical NRA guy in [the house] with guns," according
26 to Mr. Roberts. Pl. Ex F (Roberts Dep.), ECF No. 60-6 at 14:13-17. According to Deputy
27 Weyhrauch, the officers decided that Mr. Roberts' knocking was unlikely to be successful given
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1 the Craigs' failure to respond to knocking so far. Weyhrauch Dep. at 49:22-50:10. Deputy
2 Laguardia thus asked Mr. Roberts to stay back. Ulrich Dep. at 58:9-10; Weyhrauch Dep. at 50:11-
3 15. However, Mr. Roberts reapproached the officers and told them that Mr. Craig "has guns and
4 he keeps them in a safe. . . . And he said that [Mr. Craig] also sleeps with a revolver underneath
5 his pillow." Ulrich Dep. at 58:15-19; Weyhrauch Dep. at 42:25-5 (mentioning that Mr. Craig slept
6 with a gun under his pillow); Roberts Dep. at 14:20-15:8. Mr. Roberts thus warned the officers
7 that "if you disturb [Mr. Craig] and wake him up, you might get shot, because he does sleep with a
8 gun. But he wouldn't bother nobody else other than that." Roberts Dep. at 15:5-8. Mr. Roberts
9 also testified that he told the officers that Mr. Craig had lost the combination to the safe in which
10 Mr. Craig kept the other guns that were not under his pillow. Roberts Dep. at 32:20-33:6.

11 The officers continued to prepare to force entry of the Craigs' home. Specifically, Deputy
12 Weyhrauch then pulled his patrol SUV, which says "sheriff" and has a star on the side, into the
13 Craigs' driveway and turned on the spotlights, the red and blue flashing lights, and the dash
14 camera. Weyhrauch Dep. at 51:1-5; Laguardia Dep. at 64:18, 65:4-10; Weyhrauch Interview at
15 26:8-24; *see* Def. Exs. S-9, S-10, S-13 (photos of patrol SUV and patrol SUV with lights on), ECF
16 No. 54-12; Def. Ex. N-1 at 7:20-7:36 (dash camera video of SUV being positioned in driveway).
17 Deputy Weyhrauch did so "[s]o that when [the officers] eventually made entry, there would just be
18 . . . no doubt" that it was the sheriff's office entering the home. Deputy Weyrauch also believed
19 that the SUV's lights would provide extra lighting and that the SUV itself could provide additional
20 cover if firearms were used. Weyhrauch Dep. at 51:6-19. Sgt. Ulrich radioed dispatch that the
21 officers were going to force entry and requested that fire and medical personnel stand by to render
22 aid if necessary. Ulrich Dep. at 88:10-22; Def. Ex. L at 11:1-12 (dispatch radio transcript); Def.
23 Ex. M-1 at 51:00-51:55 (dispatch radio audio).

24 **2. Entry of Garage and Shooting**

25 The officers then approached the Craigs' front door. Sgt. Ulrich "banged on the [Craigs']
26 door" and "repeatedly announced 'sheriff's office'" in a loud voice. Weyhrauch Dep. at 52:7-17;
27 Def. Ex. N-1 at 7:50-8:28 (dash camera footage with audio of Sgt. Ulrich knocking and saying

“Eugene, sheriff’s office, open the door please”). Sgt. Ulrich also said, “Eugene, open the door or I am going to kick it in.” Def. Ex. N-1 at 8:10-8:12. When no one responded, Sgt. Ulrich then tried kicking in the front door, but the front door did not move. Weyhrauch Dep. at 52:18-22; Ulrich Dep. at 68:13-18; Laguardia Dep. at 65:11-17; Ex. L at 11:14-16; Def. Ex. M-1 at 53:03-53:10, 54:34-54:45 (dispatch radio audio). The officers then moved to the backyard, where the garage had a rear door. *See* Def. Exs. S-4, S-5, S-7 (photos of garage showing rear door); Def. Ex. L at 11:14-16 (dispatch radio transcript); Def. Ex. M-1 at 54:34-54:45 (dispatch radio audio). Sgt. Ulrich knocked, yelled “sheriff’s office,” and then kicked in the garage’s rear door. Ulrich Dep. at 68:19-24; Laguardia Dep. at 72:10-18; Weyhrauch Dep. at 53:2-4, 54:4-19.

Sgt. Ulrich then entered the garage, followed by Deputies Weyhrauch, Laguardia, and Reyes, respectively. Weyhrauch Dep. at 54:23-55:1; Def. Ex. M-1 at 54:53-54:56 (dispatch radio audio of Deputy Weyhrauch stating that the officers were “entering through the garage”). Deputy Weyhrauch yelled “sheriff’s office” several more times after entering the garage. Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:5-7. The garage’s lights were off, but the patrol SUV’s lights allowed the officers to see inside the garage. Weyhrauch Dep. at 59:23-60:1; Ulrich Dep. at 72:7-12. The Craigs’ car was in the garage, with the front of the car facing the garage’s rear door. Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:13-19; Def. Exs. S-5, S-7 (photos showing car positioned in garage); Ulrich Dep. at 69:11-13. The officers walked between the passenger side of the car and the wall of the garage, which had several ladders leaning against it and also had cabinets. Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:8-19; Def. Exs. S-1, S-2, S-3, S-7 (photos of garage showing ladders, cabinets, and car). The officers then approached a door connecting the garage to the Craigs’ home. The door was two steps above the level of the garage floor. Weyhrauch Dep. at 56:14-18; Ulrich Dep. at 73:23-74:1; Def. Exs. S-2, S-3, S-7 (photographs showing steps up to door leading to house). Sgt. Ulrich positioned himself to the right of that door. Ulrich Dep. at 71:19-20; Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:23-56:1. Deputy Weyhrauch was to the left of the door, with Deputy Laguardia behind him and Deputy Reyes behind Deputy Laguardia. Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:23-25; Reyes Dep. at 51:22-25; Ulrich Dep. at 71:7-11.

1 Sgt. Ulrich did not knock on or announce his presence at the door leading into the Craigs' 2 house. Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 31:18-24. Instead, Sgt. Ulrich kicked in the door leading to 3 the Craigs' house. Weyhrauch Dep. at 56:2-13; Ulrich Dep. at 69:19-23. The door swung open 4 and then closed, so Sgt. Ulrich pushed it open again with his hand. Ulrich Dep. at 70:12-71:9; 5 Weyhrauch Dep. at 60:24-61:5. The officers again announced themselves as sheriff's deputies, 6 and Sgt. Ulrich moved to the right of the door. Ulrich Dep. at 71:14-19; Weyhrauch Dep. at 7 56:10-13, 57:11-13. Deputy Weyhrauch saw Mr. Craig come around a corner inside the house in 8 "kind of a slow, shuffling walk." Weyhrauch Dep. at 67:10-11. Sgt. Ulrich described Mr. Craig's 9 walk as "very cautious," "methodical," and "determined." Ulrich Dep. at 80:1-5. Mrs. Craig 10 stood behind Mr. Craig. Weyhrauch Dep. at 68:24-69:2, 69:14-18; Ulrich Dep. at 78:8-12. 11 According to Deputy Weyhrauch, Mr. Craig was holding a revolver "down by his side, in his right 12 hand" and was moving toward the door to the garage. Weyhrauch Dep. at 67:12-13, 68:3-5. 13 Deputy Weyhrauch testified that he did not see Mr. Craig raise the gun. Weyhrauch Dep. at 14 71:16-20. Sgt. Ulrich testified that Mr. Craig held the gun in a "slightly canted" position, such 15 that it was pointed at the officers, because the garage, where the officers were, was several feet 16 below the house, where Mr. Craig was. Ulrich Dep. at 73:16-74:3.

17 As soon as Deputy Weyhrauch saw that Mr. Craig was holding a gun, Deputy Weyhrauch
18 yelled two or three times, “Eugene, drop the gun. Sheriff’s office. Drop the gun.” Weyhrauch
19 Dep. at 68:18-24, 69:24-25; Ulrich Dep. at 72:6, 72:13-19, 73:11; *see also* Laguardia Dep. at 81:9-
20 22 (testifying that “drop the gun” was said multiple times); Reyes Dep. at 54:6-14 (“I just
21 remember hearing, “Sheriff’s office. Drop the gun. Drop the gun.”); *id.* at 57:4-10 (testifying that
22 “drop the gun” was said multiple times).

23 Deputy Weyhrauch testified that he made eye contact with Mr. Craig, who did not comply
24 with or otherwise acknowledge the commands to drop the gun. Weyhrauch Dep. at 70:6-9.
25 Deputy Weyhrauch described Mr. Craig as having a “steely gaze” and “sort of this really grim,
26 sort of like a determined look in his eye” and stated that Mr. Craig “seemed just determined to
27 march out.” Weyhrauch Dep. at 70:7-8, 70:10, 71:3. Sgt. Ulrich described Mr. Craig’s demeanor

1 as “very catatonic or like he was in a trance.” Ulrich Dep. at 78:6-7. Sgt. Ulrich also yelled “drop
2 the gun.” Ulrich Dep. at 76:22-24. At the same time, Sgt. Ulrich took several steps back so that
3 he was positioned between the back of the car and the closed garage door, in an attempt to “get
4 into some type of covered position.” Ulrich Dep. at 76:10-20. Sgt. Ulrich stated that he could not
5 retreat any farther behind the car because he was already up against the garage door. Def. Ex. V
6 (Ulrich Interview), ECF No. 51-1 at 28:24-29:2, 32:10-16; Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview), ECF No.
7 60-9 at 54:19-21.

8 Deputy Weyhrauch then lost sight of Mr. Craig due to the angle of the doorway.
9 Weyhrauch Dep. 71:7, 71:14-15, 73:2-3. Sgt. Ulrich continued to yell “drop the weapon.”
10 Weyhrauch Dep. at 73:2-12; Ulrich Dep. at 77:1-3. Sgt. Ulrich then “briefly took [his] eyes off
11 Mr. Craig to look at [his] radio.” Ulrich Dep. at 77:7-8. When Sgt. Ulrich refocused on Mr.
12 Craig, Sgt. Ulrich says that he “saw Mr. Craig turn, the weapon pointed at [Sgt. Ulrich], and his
13 finger barreling down on the trigger right at [Sgt. Ulrich].” Ulrich Dep. at 77:8-11; *see also* Def.
14 Ex. V (Ulrich Interview) at 28:16-18 (“that’s when I saw the – the gun, uh, being raised and the
15 trigger being pulled”); Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 13:7-8. According to Sgt. Ulrich, when Sgt.
16 Ulrich believed that Mr. Craig was pulling the trigger, Sgt. Ulrich then fired four shots, at least
17 one of which hit Mr. Craig in the right upper chest. Ulrich Dep. at 77:12-13, Reyes Dep. at 57:17-
18 19; Def. Ex. V (Ulrich Interview) at 29:8-16; Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 13:8-10 (“I saw him
19 pulling the trigger and I was already out with front sight on him and I saw him squeezing and I
20 fired about four times right at him.”); Def. Ex. S-7 (photo showing markers for four bullet
21 casings); Def. Ex. M-1 at 56:58-57:04 (radio traffic reporting “gunshot wound to the right upper
22 chest”); Def. Ex. N-1 at 10:46-49 (audio from dash camera of four shots fired).

23 Sgt. Ulrich then radioed dispatch, “shots fired – shots fired” and requested emergency
24 medical assistance. Def. Ex. L at 11:19-23 (dispatch radio transcript); Def. Ex. M-1 at 55:31-
25 55:41, 55:59-56:03 (dispatch radio audio); Def. Ex. N-1 at 10:50-57 (dash camera audio).
26 According to the audio recording of the radio traffic, less than a minute elapsed between when
27 Deputy Weyhrauch stated that the officers were entering the garage and when Sgt. Ulrich radioed

1 that shots were fired. *See* Def. Ex. M-1 at 54:53-55:41.

2 Deputy Laguardia ushered Mrs. Craig out to a car to wait for the scene to clear. Def. Ex. Q
3 (Mrs. Craig Interview), ECF No. 54-10 at 61:15-17. After additional deputies arrived, Deputy
4 Weyhrauch “checked down that hallway, sort of like a protective sweep, making sure there was no
5 other outstanding person in that home that could potentially . . . be armed, may be a danger to [the
6 officers].” Weyhrauch Dep. at 78:10-14. Sgt. Ulrich and Deputies Weyhrauch, Reyes, and
7 Laguardia were then separated from one another as a matter of protocol. Weyhrauch Dep. at
8 78:23-79:19.

9 Mr. Craig remained conscious and in pain through his arrival at Valley Medical Center, but
10 Mr. Craig later died on the operating table from his injuries. Pl. Ex. L, ECF No. 60-12.

11 **3. Mrs. Craig’s Testimony**

12 In her videotaped interview late at night after the shooting, before she knew whether Mr.
13 Craig had survived and without the presence of an attorney, Mrs. Craig recounted her perspective
14 of the day’s events. *See* Mrs. Craig Interview. Mrs. Craig explained that Mr. Craig was upset
15 about something having to do with Elizabeth and Elizabeth’s boyfriend. *Id.* at 28:24-30:3. Mrs.
16 Craig stated that her husband sometimes had a “very bad temper” and that he “gets mean” when
17 he is worried about something. *Id.* at 16:19, 16:25, 20:19-22. Mrs. Craig confirmed that the
18 phone rang “all day” but neither she nor Mr. Craig answered it, which was unusual. *Id.* at 69:24-
19 71:1. Specifically, Mrs. Craig said that Mr. Craig told Mrs. Craig not to answer the phone because
20 he was upset with Elizabeth. *Id.* at 70:10-71:1.

21 Mrs. Craig said that she wears hearing aids in both ears but Mr. Craig did not wear hearing
22 aids and had good hearing. *Id.* at 95:12-25. Mrs. Craig and Mr. Craig were sitting at their table
23 when they heard knocking at the front door but Mr. Craig instructed Mrs. Craig not to answer the
24 door or look out the window. *Id.* at 35:14-37:5, 101:1-6. Mrs. Craig noted that the banging at the
25 front door went on for a long time. *Id.* at 36:15-24. However, Mrs. Craig did not hear anyone say
26 anything during the knocking. *Id.* at 38:13-20. Mrs. Craig said that “somebody then come to
27 backyard [sic].” *Id.* at 37:10-11. Mrs. Craig could see that the person in the backyard was using a

1 flashlight and became scared. *Id.* at 38:20-23, 92:16-17, 92:23-93:23. Then, about thirty minutes
2 after the knocking began, someone knocked on the front door again. *Id.* at 45:15-19. In the
3 meantime, the Craigs watched television at a low volume so that the people outside would not hear
4 the television. *Id.* at 73:23-74:24. Mr. Craig instructed his wife to remain quiet. *Id.* at 45:13,
5 94:13. Mrs. Craig explained that a Boy Scout and his father had come to the Craigs' door a few
6 days before at a similar time, around 8:30 p.m., and Mrs. Craig had answered the door, but Mr.
7 Craig told Mrs. Craig not to answer the door the next time. *Id.* at 87:19-88:2. Mrs. Craig said that
8 on the night of the shooting, she and Mr. Craig did not discuss calling 911 in response to the
9 knocking or the people in their backyard. *Id.* at 89:11-24, 94:3-4.

10 Eventually, Mr. Craig retrieved his gun from the bedroom. *Id.* at 49:19-50:22. After the
11 door leading to the garage opened, Mrs. Craig followed Mr. Craig and saw some of the officers in
12 the garage, but she did not hear the officers say anything. *Id.* at 51:5-21, 56:9-20 (stating that Mrs.
13 Craig was standing behind Mr. Craig), 61:6-13 (in response to question, "did they say Police,"
14 Mrs. Craig initially responded "yeah huh" and then "no" and "no say anything"), 87:6-7. Mrs.
15 Craig also stated that her husband did not say anything to the officers. *Id.* at 51:23-25, 52:20-21.
16 Mrs. Craig stated that she believed that Mr. Craig had fired his gun, although she also said "I don't
17 know" and indicated that the events had moved very fast. *Id.* at 52:25-53:4, 94:20-95:4.

18 In the same interview the night of the shooting, Mrs. Craig also stated that Mr. Craig
19 pointed his gun at the officers. Def. Ex. R. Specifically, the interviewer asked Mrs. Craig, "did he
20 have it like this" while gesturing with his arm perpendicular to his body and his hand as if aiming
21 a gun, "or did he have it like this," while gesturing with his arm parallel to his body and his hand
22 as if holding a gun down by his side. *Id.* Without hesitation, Mrs. Craig responded, "I think
23 pointing," and raised her arm and held her hand in front of her body as if aiming a gun at the
24 interviewer. *Id.*; *see also* Mrs. Craig Interview at 102:12-16.

25 In her deposition, Mrs. Craig testified that Mr. Craig was holding the gun at his side. Def.
26 Ex. H (Mrs. Craig Dep.), ECF No. 55-8 at 82:23-83:4. Defendants' counsel then asked, "He
27 didn't point it?" *Id.* at 83:5. Mrs. Craig responded, "Point it the last minute. [sic]. That's all.

1 Never point at the people (incomprehensible).” *Id.* at 83:6-7. Defendants’ counsel asked, “At the
2 last minute, he pointed it?” *Id.* at 83:8. Mrs. Craig responded, “Yeah.” Mrs. Craig’s counsel then
3 asked, “Where did he point it last second?” *Id.* at 83:11-12. Mrs. Craig then stated “I think just
4 maybe there. That’s all. Pointed it. Maybe towards here. I don’t know. Maybe here.” *Id.* at
5 83:12-15. As she was giving her answer, Mrs. Craig gestured as if pointing a gun toward the
6 ground and then toward the ceiling. Def. Ex. I (excerpt of deposition video). Defendants’ counsel
7 then asked again “at some point, did Gene lift the gun up?” Mrs. Craig Dep. at 84:17. Mrs. Craig
8 responded, “No, I don’t think so.” *Id.* at 84:18. Defendants’ counsel asked, “You didn’t see
9 that?” *Id.* at 84:19. Mrs. Craig replied, “No, I don’t see that, but I don’t think so, no. Because no
10 mark or no nothing. Bullet, there are no mark or bullets. Only the police bullet in the house.” *Id.*
11 at 84:20-22. Mrs. Craig then stated again that she did not remember Mr. Craig lifting his gun up.
12 *Id.* at 85:3-4.

13 **B. Procedural History**

14 Plaintiff filed the original complaint in this action on April 17, 2017. ECF No. 1. On May
15 3, 2017, Plaintiff filed a first amended complaint. ECF No. 13. On May 18, 2017, Defendants
16 filed an answer to the first amended complaint. ECF No. 14. On August 3, 2017, the parties filed
17 a stipulation to allow Plaintiff to file a second amended complaint. ECF No. 29. The Court
18 granted this stipulation on August 14, 2017, ECF No. 30, and Plaintiff filed the operative second
19 amended complaint on August 15, 2017, ECF No. 31 (“SAC”). On August 29, 2017, Defendants
20 answered the SAC. ECF No. 34.

21 On June 7, 2018, Defendants filed the instant motion for summary judgment. ECF No. 49.
22 On June 21, 2018, Plaintiff filed an opposition. ECF No. 59 (“Opp’n”). On June 28, 2018,
23 Defendants filed a reply. ECF No. 65 (“Reply”).

24 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

25 Summary judgment is proper where the pleadings, discovery and affidavits demonstrate
26 that there is “no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to
27 judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). Material facts are those which may affect the

1 outcome of the case. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A dispute as to a
2 material fact is genuine if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable jury to return a verdict for
3 the nonmoving party. *Id.*

4 The party moving for summary judgment bears the initial burden of identifying those
5 portions of the pleadings, discovery and affidavits which demonstrate the absence of a genuine
6 issue of material fact. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986). Where the moving
7 party will have the burden of proof on an issue at trial, it must affirmatively demonstrate that no
8 reasonable trier of fact could find other than for the moving party. However, on an issue for which
9 the opposing party will have the burden of proof at trial, the moving party need only point out
10 “that there is an absence of evidence to support the nonmoving party’s case.” *Id.* at 325.

11 Once the moving party meets its initial burden, the nonmoving party must go beyond the
12 pleadings and, by its own affidavits or discovery, “set forth specific facts showing that there is a
13 genuine issue for trial.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e). The court is only concerned with disputes over
14 material facts and “factual disputes that are irrelevant or unnecessary will not be counted.”
15 *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248. It is not the task of the court to scour the record in search of a genuine
16 issue of triable fact. *Keenan v. Allen*, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th Cir. 1996). The nonmoving party
17 has the burden of identifying, with reasonable particularity, the evidence that precludes summary
18 judgment. *Id.* If the nonmoving party fails to make this showing, “the moving party is entitled to
19 judgment as a matter of law.” *Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 323.

20 At the summary judgment stage, the court must view the evidence in the light most
21 favorable to the nonmoving party: if evidence produced by the moving party conflicts with
22 evidence produced by the nonmoving party, the judge must assume the truth of the evidence set
23 forth by the nonmoving party with respect to that fact. *See Leslie v. Grupo ICA*, 198 F.3d 1152,
24 1158 (9th Cir. 1999).

25 Additionally, when, as here, there is videotape evidence of the incident in question, the
26 Court at summary judgment must view ‘the facts in the light depicted by the videotape.’ *Scott v.*
27 *Harris*, 550 U.S. 372, 381 (2007).

1 **III. DISCUSSION**

2 Mrs. Craig asserts the following eight claims against Defendants: (1) 4th Amendment
3 Violation – Excessive Force (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (2) Negligence (Wrongful Death); (3) Battery
4 (Wrongful Death); (4) Municipal Liability – Inadequate Training (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (5)
5 Municipal Liability – Unconstitutional Custom, Practice, or Policy (42 U.S.C. § 1983); (6)
6 Bystander Emotional Distress; (7) Bane Act Violation (Cal. Civ. Code § 52.1); and (8) 4th
7 Amendment Violation – Unlawful Entry (42 U.S.C. § 1983). SAC.

8 The Court begins by address Mrs. Craig's § 1983 and *Monell* claims and then turns to Mrs.
9 Craig's state law claims.

10 **A. Section 1983 Claims for Fourth Amendment Violations**

11 Mrs. Craig's § 1983 claims allege that Defendants violated Mr. and Mrs. Craig's Fourth
12 Amendment rights by unlawfully entering the Craigs' home and violated Mr. Craig's Fourth
13 Amendment rights by unlawfully using deadly force against Mr. Craig. Defendants argue that
14 summary judgment is appropriate on Mrs. Craig's § 1983 claims because Defendants are entitled
15 to qualified immunity.

16 **1. Legal Standard for Qualified Immunity**

17 “The doctrine of qualified immunity shields officials from civil liability so long as their
18 conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable
19 person would have known.” *Mullenix v. Luna*, 136 S. Ct. 305, 308 (2015) (per curiam). Qualified
20 immunity “gives government officials breathing room to make reasonable but mistaken judgments
21 by protecting all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly violate the law.” *City &*
22 *County of San Francisco v. Sheehan*, 135 S. Ct. 1765, 1774 (2015) (internal quotation marks and
23 brackets omitted). The qualified immunity analysis “must be undertaken in light of the specific
24 context of the case, not as a broad general proposition.” *Mendez v. County of Los Angeles*, 815
25 F.3d 1178, 1186 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194, 201 (2001)), *overruled on*
26 *other grounds by County of Los Angeles v. Mendez*, 137 S. Ct. 1539 (2017). “To determine
27 whether an officer is entitled to qualified immunity, [the Court] ask[s], in the order [it] choose[s],

1 (1) whether the alleged misconduct violated a [constitutional] right and (2) whether the right was
2 clearly established at the time of the alleged misconduct.” *Hernandez v. City of San Jose*, --- F. 3d
3 ---, 2018 WL 3597324, at *4 (9th Cir. July 27, 2018) (quoting *Maxwell v. County of San Diego*,
4 708 F.3d 1075, 1082 (9th Cir. 2013)) (alterations in *Hernandez*); *see also Pearson v. Callahan*,
5 555 U.S. 223, 232 (2009) (same). Qualified immunity applies unless the answer to both questions
6 is “yes.” *See Pearson*, 555 U.S. at 232.

7 The Court begins by discussing whether Mrs. Craig has shown facts that establish a
8 violation of a constitutional right. The Court first examines whether the officers’ entry into the
9 Craigs’ garage and home violated the Craigs’ Fourth Amendment rights, and then the Court turns
10 to the use of force against Mr. Craig.

11 **2. Entry into Garage and House Was Not a Fourth Amendment Violation**

12 “[T]he home is perhaps the most sacrosanct domain, where one’s Fourth Amendment
13 interests are at their zenith.” *Fisher v. City of San Jose*, 558 F.3d 1069, 1082 (9th Cir. 2009) (en
14 banc); *see also Bonivert v. City of Clarkston*, 883 F.3d 865, 873 (9th Cir. 2018) (“It has long been
15 recognized that the ‘physical entry of the home is the chief evil against which the wording of the
16 Fourth Amendment is directed.’” (quoting *Payton v. New York*, 445 U.S. 573, 585-86 (1980))).
17 Thus, “[i]t is a ‘basic principle of Fourth Amendment law that searches and seizures inside a home
18 without a warrant are presumptively unreasonable.’” *Brigham City, Utah v. Stuart*, 547 U.S. 398,
19 403 (2006) (quoting *Groh v. Ramirez*, 540 U.S. 551, 559 (2004)). “Nevertheless, because the
20 ultimate touchstone of the Fourth Amendment is ‘reasonableness,’ the warrant requirement is
21 subject to certain exceptions,” even with respect to searching a home. *Id.* “One exigency
22 obviating the requirement of a warrant is the need to assist persons who are seriously injured or
23 threatened with such injury.” *Id.* “Accordingly, law enforcement officers may enter a home
24 without a warrant to render emergency assistance to an injured occupant or to protect an occupant
25 from imminent injury.” *Id.* (citing *Mincey v. Arizona*, 437 U.S. 385, 392 (1978)); *see also*
26 *Kentucky v. King*, 563 U.S. 452, 460 (2011) (same). This emergency aid exception to the warrant
27 requirement is rooted in law enforcement’s “community caretaking function.” *See United States*

28

1 *v. Bradley*, 321 F.3d 1212, 1214 (9th Cir. 2003).

2 The Ninth Circuit applies a two-part test to determine whether the emergency aid
3 exception permits a warrantless search. *See United States v. Snipe*, 515 F.3d 947, 951-952 (9th
4 Cir. 2008) (adopting two-part test after holding that the Ninth Circuit’s previous three-part test,
5 drawn from *United States v. Cervantes*, 219 F.3d 882 (9th Cir. 2000), which included an inquiry
6 into the officer’s subjective intent, did not survive the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Brigham
7 City*). Specifically, the Court “examine[s] whether: ‘(1) considering the totality of the
8 circumstances, law enforcement had an objectively reasonable basis for concluding that there was
9 an immediate need to protect others or themselves from serious harm; and (2) the search’s scope
10 and manner were reasonable to meet the need.’” *Ames v. King County, Wash.*, 846 F.3d 340, 350
11 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Snipe*, 515 F.3d at 952).

12 Law enforcement officers “must demonstrate ‘specific and articulable facts to justify the
13 finding’ of . . . emergency.” *Sandoval v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dept.*, 756 F.3d 1154, 1161 (9th
14 Cir. 2014) (quoting *LaLonde v. County of Riverside*, 204 F.3d 947, 957 (9th Cir. 2000)).
15 However, “[o]fficers do not need ironclad proof of a likely serious, life-threatening injury to
16 invoke the emergency aid exception.” *Michigan v. Fisher*, 558 U.S. 45, 49 (2009) (internal
17 quotation marks omitted). Rather, the question is “whether there was ‘an objectively reasonable
18 basis for believing’ that medical assistance was needed, or persons were in danger.” *Id.* (quoting
19 *Brigham City*, 547 U.S. at 406). The Court must “assess officers’ actions ‘from the perspective of
20 a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.’” *Sandoval*, 756
21 F.3d at 1163 (quoting *Ryburn v. Huff*, 565 U.S. 469, 477 (2012)). “The fact that an emergency
22 does not ultimately materialize has no bearing.” *United States v. Jones*, 583 F. App’x 729, 730
23 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing *Fisher*, 558 U.S. at 49).

24 “Because there is no dispute that the officers failed to obtain a warrant before entering [the
25 Craigs’ garage or] home, the entry was presumptively unreasonable.” *Bonivert*, 883 F.3d at 873.
26 Defendants assert that the officers’ warrantless entry into the Craigs’ garage and home was
27 nevertheless justified by the emergency aid exception. Mot. at 12-14. Under controlling Ninth
28

1 Circuit precedent, Defendants are correct.

2 Specifically, the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Martin v. City of Oceanside*, 360 F.3d 1078
3 (9th Cir. 2004), is directly on point. The Ninth Circuit recounted the facts in *Martin* as follows:

4 On December 28, 1999 Dr. Ronald Trotman phoned the Oceanside Police
5 Department from Portland, Oregon with an urgent request to check on the safety
6 of his daughter, Traci Trotman ("Traci"). He had been unable to reach her for
7 several days and told the police he was "extremely concerned" about her welfare,
8 "and felt she could be in trouble." *Martin v. City of Oceanside*, 205 F.Supp.2d
9 1142, 1144 (S.D. Cal. 2002). He also gave the police an accurate description of
10 her car. Around 4:30 p.m., acting on this "check the welfare" request, Officer
11 Kelly arrived at Martin's home, where Traci was reportedly living as a roommate.
12 He knocked and rang the doorbell, but no one answered. Unbeknownst to Officer
13 Kelly, Martin and Traci were inside the home, but did not respond to his implicit
14 request for an audience. Although they were aware that a uniformed police
15 officer was at the door, they mistakenly and without substantial reason assumed
16 that Martin's ex-wife had called the police and made a false accusation, and thus
17 irresponsibly decided to ignore the officer's attempt to speak with them.

18 Officer Kelly observed that Traci's car was in the driveway, and had headquarters
19 call her phone number. Traci and Martin ignored the call. Officer Kelly then
20 walked to the side of the house where he found an unlocked door to the garage. It
21 is disputed whether or not Officer Kelly announced his presence before entering
22 the garage, but once inside he found an unlocked door leading to the main part of
23 the house. At this point, Officer Kelly exited the garage. "Fearing that a crime
24 could be in progress," he requested an additional officer. *Id.* at 1145.

25 While waiting for the other officer to arrive, Officer Kelly went next door, where
26 the neighbor told him that she had seen a woman at the residence on Christmas
27 day, three days prior, and a man there the day before. She added that because the
28 occupants' cars were in the driveway, they should be home.

29 When Officer Ekeland arrived, both officers entered the house through the garage
30 with their flashlights on and guns drawn.

31 *Id.* at 1080-81.

32 The Ninth Circuit concluded that the emergency aid exception applied.² See *id.* at 1081-
33

34 _____
35 ² The Ninth Circuit applied the three-part test from *Cervantes*, 219 F.3d 882, to analyze the
36 emergency aid exception in *Martin*. See *Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1081-82. As mentioned above, the
37 Ninth Circuit modified its test in *Snipe*, 515 F.3d 947, to eliminate the inquiry into the officer's
38 subjective intent for conducting the search. Thus, the three-part test from *Cervantes* is more
39 stringent than the current two-part test from *Snipe*, and as a result the Ninth Circuit's holding in
40 *Martin* still controls.

1 82. Specifically, the Ninth Circuit first determined that “the officers had reasonable grounds to
2 believe that there existed an immediate need for their assistance” based on Traci’s father’s phone
3 call, the fact that Traci’s car was in the driveway, the neighbor’s opinion that Traci should be
4 home, the lack of response to repeated knocking, and an unanswered call to Traci’s phone. *Id.* at
5 1082. The same facts supported the officers’ conclusion that the scope of their search should
6 include the areas of Martin’s home where Traci could potentially be located. *Id.* The Ninth
7 Circuit highlighted that it had reached the same conclusion in *Murdock v. Stout*, 54 F.3d 1437 (9th
8 Cir. 1995), where it held that the emergency aid exception applied where a neighbor reported
9 suspicious activity at a home, there were indications that someone was at the home, and no one
10 responded to the officers’ shouts or phone calls. *Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1082-83.

In the instant case, like in *Martin*, law enforcement officers initiated a welfare check in response to a family member reporting concern after being unable to contact Mr. Craig. Here, like in *Martin*, the officers confirmed that the Craigs' car was at the house. Here, like in *Martin*, a neighbor opined that if the car was at the house, the Craigs should be, too. Here, like in *Martin*, the Craigs failed to respond to repeated knocking and phone calls. Accordingly, here, like in *Martin*, the officers had objective reasons to believe the Craigs should be home but were not responding. Moreover, the officers in the instant case also knew that the Craigs were elderly, that Mr. Craig had heart problems, and that Deputy Weyhrauch had heard a crashing sound in the home and had heard someone say "hel-," which could have been "help." In addition, Elizabeth, who called 911 to request the welfare check, said that "something bad happened between her grandparents," Laguardia Dep. at 42:23-43:5, and Mr. Marshall, a close family friend, told Deputy Laguardia that he had witnessed Mr. Craig threaten to hit Mrs. Craig's head against their car, *id.* at 33:20-34:1. Mr. Marshall expressed a concern about a potential murder-suicide scenario. Def. Ex. O at 6:25-7:12, 15:19-21. The officers also knew that Mr. Craig possessed firearms in the home. Laguardia Dep. at 41:18-23; Weyhrauch Dep. at 42:25-43:3; Def. Ex. L at 8:24-9:2. Putting all these facts together, the officers had "an objectively reasonable basis for concluding that there was an imminent need to protect" the Craigs from serious harm. *Snipe*, 515 F.3d at 952;

1 *see Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1083. The scope and manner of the search were also reasonable because
2 all of the same evidence, plus the lights in the house and the garbage bins in the driveway,
3 indicated that the Craigs were inside the house. *See Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1082.

4 Thus, like in *Martin*, “the officers’ warrantless entry falls squarely within the emergency
5 aid exception and community caretaking function, and as a result [the Craigs’] Fourth Amendment
6 right[s] to be secure in [their] home clearly w[ere] not violated.” *Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1083; *see*
7 *also Sheehan*, 135 S. Ct. at 1774 (“Reynolds and Holder knocked on the door, announced that they
8 were police officers, and informed Sheehan that they wanted to help her. When Sheehan did not
9 come to the door, they entered her room. This was not unconstitutional.”); *United States v. Allen*,
10 178 F. App’x 722, 723-24 (9th Cir. 2006) (holding that emergency aid exception applied where
11 police entered the motel room of a person who had been reported missing and potentially suicidal,
12 where the television in the room was on, the dead-bolt lock on the motel room door was engaged
13 from inside the room, and no one answered knocks, bangs, or kicks on the door).

14 Mrs. Craig attempts to distinguish *Martin*, but her arguments are not persuasive. First,
15 Mrs. Craig argues that “Sgt. Ulrich knew that the granddaughter had only been trying to reach her
16 grandparents *that day*,” whereas the father in *Martin* had been unable to reach his daughter for
17 several days. Opp’n at 15. However, Mrs. Craig does not explain why a difference of two days in
18 the length of nonresponsiveness that prompted the family member to initiate a welfare check
19 would make a difference to the analysis where, as here, there are signs after the welfare check was
20 initiated that the Craigs were home but not responding. Indeed, in *Murdock*, upon which the Ninth
21 Circuit relied in *Martin*, the emergency aid exception applied after the police saw signs that a
22 resident appeared to be home but was not responding, even though the suspicious activity that
23 prompted the police investigation only took place that same day. *See Murdock*, 54 F.3d at 1439,
24 1442-43. Here, once the welfare check was initiated, it is undisputed that there were signs that the
25 Craigs were at home but were not responding to the officers’ phone call or nearly forty-five
26 minutes of knocking and announcing. The fact that Elizabeth had only been trying to reach the
27 Craigs for one day before initiating a welfare check does not outweigh the other objective signs

1 that the Craigs were in need of aid.

2 Mrs. Craig next argues that in *Martin*, the Ninth Circuit held Martin solely responsible for
3 the officers' entry "after he chose to play hide-and-go-seek with the authorities" after he knew
4 police were at the door, whereas "Sgt. Ulrich had no facts *before entering* to suggest that Mr.
5 Craig knew law-enforcement officers were outside." Opp'n at 15. However, Mrs. Craig does not
6 explain why this distinction would lead to a different conclusion on the application of the
7 emergency aid exception, and thus has failed to explain why it is material. Indeed, Mrs. Craig's
8 argument—that Sgt. Ulrich had no facts to suggest that the Craigs were purposefully ignoring law
9 enforcement—is actually consistent with the emergency aid exception. If Sgt. Ulrich knew the
10 Craigs were fine but simply choosing to ignore law enforcement, then the emergency aid
11 exception would not apply. Moreover, nothing in *Martin* suggests that the officers in that case
12 knew that the residents were knowingly avoiding law enforcement, so the officers' knowledge in
13 the instant case is indistinguishable from *Martin*. Finally, the passage from *Martin* that Mrs. Craig
14 references focused not on whether the emergency exception applied, but instead on whether there
15 was a genuine dispute of material fact about whether the officers knocked and announced before
16 entering the home. *See Martin*, 360 F.3d at 1083-84. For all of these reasons, Mrs. Craig's
17 attempts to distinguish *Martin* fail.

18 Separately, Mrs. Craig argues that a reasonable jury could conclude that a reasonable
19 officer may have thought that "Mr. Craig failed to answer the phone simply because he did not
20 want to speak to his granddaughter—or anyone else." Opp'n at 15. Elsewhere, Mrs. Craig argues
21 that Mr. Craig had no legal duty to answer a phone call. *Id.* at 18. Similarly, Mrs. Craig argues
22 that a reasonable officer could conclude that Mr. Craig did not answer the door because it was
23 nighttime and either Mr. Craig wanted to be left alone or was afraid. *Id.* at 15. However, the
24 proper inquiry is not whether a reasonable officer could have drawn different conclusions from the
25 facts before Sgt. Ulrich at the time. The inquiry is whether the facts before Sgt. Ulrich at the time
26 provided an objectively reasonable basis for the conclusions that Sgt. Ulrich actually drew. As
27 *Martin* makes clear, the facts of the instant case as known to Sgt. Ulrich at the time provided an
28

1 objectively reasonable basis to conclude that one or both of the Craigs were in imminent need of
2 assistance. *See Fisher*, 558 U.S. at 49.

3 Moreover, in a case with some factual similarities to the instant case, the U.S. Supreme
4 Court reversed the Ninth Circuit's denial of qualified immunity and cautioned against evaluating
5 in isolation each separate event in a string of events that led to the warrantless entry of a house.
6 *See Ryburn*, 565 U.S. at 476-66. In *Ryburn*, the U.S. Supreme Court criticized the Ninth Circuit
7 for finding it "irrelevant that the Huffs did not respond when the officers knocked on the door and
8 announced their presence and when they called the home phone because the Huffs had no legal
9 obligation to respond to a knock on the door or to answer the phone." *Id.* at 475. The U.S.
10 Supreme Court observed that "[i]t should go without saying" that "there are many circumstances
11 in which lawful conduct may portend imminent violence," and added that "it is a matter of
12 common sense that a combination of events each of which is mundane in isolation may paint an
13 alarming picture." *Id.* at 476-77. Similarly, here, although there may have been alternate
14 explanations for the facts before the officers, that does not mean that those facts failed to provide a
15 reasonable basis to conclude that the Craigs needed immediate aid.

16 Next, Mrs. Craig impliedly argues that because Sgt. Ulrich did not knock and announce at
17 the door between the garage and the house, the entry of the house was unconstitutional. Opp'n at
18 14 ("Sgt. Ulrich also admitted that he did not knock-and-announce before kicking in the door
19 leading to the dwelling portion of the Craigs' home."). Of course, "[t]hat the government must
20 announce its presence before entering a private home is a longstanding principle." *United States*
21 v. *Combs*, 394 F.3d 739, 743 (9th Cir. 2005). "The general practice of physically knocking on the
22 door, announcing law enforcement's presence and purpose, and receiving an actual refusal or
23 waiting a sufficient amount of time to infer refusal is the preferred method of entry." *Id.* at 744.
24 However, "the knock and announce principle is a part of the reasonableness inquiry" under the
25 Fourth Amendment, "rather than a prerequisite for constitutional entry." *Id.* at 743. As part of
26 this inquiry, the Court "must examine what, if any, notice the police gave before entry and the
27 likelihood that the notice alerted those inside the home to the officer's presence and purpose." *Id.*

1 at 745. Moreover, the U.S. Supreme Court has acknowledged that futility could justify a no-knock
2 entry. *See Brigham City*, 547 U.S. at 406; *Richards v. Wisconsin*, 520 U.S. 385, 394 (1997).

3 Here, to find that Sgt. Ulrich's failure to knock and announce at the door between the
4 garage and the home would be to apply precisely the type of rigid requirement that the Ninth
5 Circuit rejected in *Combs*. It is undisputed that the officers knocked on the Craigs' front door,
6 back door, and windows for approximately forty-five minutes before eventually forcing entry
7 through the garage door. The officers and Mr. Akimoto all testified that they loudly announced
8 their presence throughout this time period. Although Mrs. Craig has consistently stated that she
9 did not hear the officers ever say anything during the knocking, her account is not sufficient to
10 raise a dispute of material fact because it is contradicted by video evidence. Specifically, the
11 audio from the dash camera of Deputy Weyhrauch's patrol SUV clearly reveals Sgt. Ulrich
12 knocking, announcing, and then attempting to kick in the Craigs' front door just minutes before
13 the officers forced entry through the garage door. Def. Ex. N-1 at 7:50-8:28. At summary
14 judgment, the Court must view 'the facts in the light depicted by the videotape,' where there is
15 one. *Scott*, 550 U.S. at 381. Moreover, based on the previous forty-five minutes of knocking, the
16 officers could have reasonably concluding that knocking and announcing again at the door
17 between the garage and house would be futile. *See Richards*, 520 U.S. at 394. Accordingly,
18 because the evidence establishes that the officers knocked for up to forty-five minutes and at a
19 minimum announced at the Craigs' front door before forcing entry through the garage door, the
20 Court concludes that the failure to specifically knock and announce again at the door between the
21 garage and the home did not render the entry unreasonable under the Fourth Amendment.

22 Finally, Mrs. Craig makes a conclusory argument that "a jury could find that Sgt. Ulrich
23 led an illegal protective sweep" without specific and articulable facts that there were other people
24 in the house. Opp'n at 15. Mrs. Craig does not cite any record evidence related to Sgt. Ulrich
25 participating in a protective sweep or otherwise elaborate on this argument. The Court assumes
26 that Mrs. Craig is referring to Deputy Weyhrauch's testimony that Deputy Weyhrauch participated
27 in a protective sweep. However, Deputy Weyhrauch is not a named defendant in this case.

1 Because there is no evidence that Sgt. Ulrich ordered the protective sweep or was otherwise
2 involved in it, Mrs. Craig has not raised a genuine dispute of material fact that “Sgt. Ulrich led an
3 illegal protective sweep.”

4 In sum, because the officers’ entry into the Craigs’ garage and house was proper under the
5 emergency aid exception, the entry did not violate the Fourth Amendment. The Court need not
6 decide Defendants’ other argument that the entry was permissible under the exigency exception.
7 Because the entry did not violate the Fourth Amendment, Defendants are entitled to qualified
8 immunity as to Plaintiff’s § 1983 claim based on the entry. *See Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 201 (“If no
9 constitutional right would have been violated were the allegations established, there is no
10 necessity for further inquiries concerning qualified immunity.”), *overruled on other grounds by*
11 *Pearson*, 555 U.S. 223. The Court thus GRANTS summary judgment in favor of Defendants on
12 Mrs. Craig’s § 1983 claim that Defendants’ entry of the Craigs’ garage and home violated the
13 Fourth Amendment.

14 The Court next considers whether Sgt. Ulrich’s use of deadly force against Mr. Craig
15 violated Mr. Craig’s Fourth Amendment rights.

16 **3. Use of Force Was Not a Fourth Amendment Violation**

17 The Fourth Amendment permits law enforcement to use “objectively reasonable” force.
18 *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-97 (1989). Such an inquiry requires the Court to “consider
19 the totality of the circumstances.” *Gonzalez v. City of Anaheim*, 747 F.3d 789, 794 (9th Cir. 2014)
20 (en banc) (citation omitted). “Factors for evaluating reasonableness include, but are not limited to:
21 (1) the severity of the crime at issue; (2) whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the
22 safety of the officers or others; and (3) whether the suspect actively resisted arrest or attempted to
23 escape.” *S.B. v. County of San Diego*, 864 F.3d 1010, 1013 (9th Cir. 2017) (citing *Graham*, 490
24 U.S. at 396). “Other relevant factors include the availability of less intrusive alternatives to the
25 force employed, whether proper warnings were given and whether it should have been apparent to
26 officers that the person they used force against was emotionally disturbed.” *Id.* (quoting *Glenn v.*
27 *Washington County*, 673 F.3d 864, 872 (9th Cir. 2011)).

1 “Of all these factors, the ‘most important’ one is ‘whether the suspect posed an immediate
2 threat to the safety of the officers or others.’” *Id.* (quoting *George*, 736 F.3d at 838). “An
3 officer’s use of deadly force is reasonable only if the officer has probable cause to believe that the
4 suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others.”
5 *Gonzalez*, 747 F.3d at 793 (quoting *Scott v. Henrich*, 39 F.3d 912, 914 (9th Cir. 1994)). “With
6 respect to the possibility of less intrusive force, officers need not employ the least intrusive means
7 available[,] so long as they act within a range of reasonable conduct.” *Estate of Lopez ex rel.*
8 *Lopez v. Gelhaus*, 871 F.3d 998, 1006 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Hughes v. Kisela*, 841 F.3d 1081,
9 1085 (9th Cir. 2016), *overruled on other grounds by Kisela v. Hughs*, 138 Ct. 1148 (2018)).

10 **a. Analysis of Reasonableness Factors**

11 **i. Severity of the Crime**

12 The first factor under *Graham* is the severity of the crime. *See George*, 736 F.3d at 837-
13 38. Here, Defendants do not contend that Mr. Craig was committing any crime at the time that he
14 was shot. The first factor thus weighs against Sgt. Ulrich’s use of deadly force. *See Lopez*, 871
15 F.3d at 1006.

16 **ii. Whether Mr. Craig Resisted Arrest or Attempted to Flee**

17 The third factor under *Graham*, whether the suspect was actively resisting arrest or
18 attempting to escape, also “weighs clearly” against Sgt. Ulrich’s use of deadly force. *See id.* at
19 1006. Specifically, it is undisputed that Mr. Craig was not resisting arrest or attempting to flee.
20 *See George*, 736 F.3d at 837-38 (recounting that district court found that third factor unmistakably
21 weighed in the plaintiff’s favor where the decedent, a sixty-five year old man, walked onto his
22 balcony with a walker in one hand and a gun in the other).

23 **iii. Whether Mr. Craig Posed an Immediate Threat**

24 The Court “therefore [is] left with the ‘most important’ factor—whether [Mr. Craig] posed
25 an ‘immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others.’” *Lopez*, 871 F.3d at 1006 (quoting
26 *George*, 736 F.3d at 838). “Law enforcement officials may not kill suspects who do not pose an
27 immediate threat to their safety or to the safety of others simply because they are armed.” *Harris*

1 *v. Roderick*, 126 F.3d 1189, 1204 (9th Cir. 1997). However, “where a suspect threatens an officer
2 with a weapon such as a gun or a knife, the officer is justified in using deadly force.” *Smith v. City*
3 *of Hemet*, 394 F.3d 689, 704 (9th Cir. 2005) (collecting cases); *see also George*, 736 F.3d at 838
4 (“When an individual points his gun ‘in the officers’ direction,’ the Constitution undoubtedly
5 entitles the officer to respond with deadly force.” (quoting *Long v. City & County of Honolulu*,
6 511 F.3d 901, 906 (9th Cir. 2007))). “If the person is armed—or reasonably suspected of being
7 armed—a furtive movement, harrowing gesture, or serious verbal threat might create an
8 immediate threat.” *George*, 736 F.3d at 838. Thus, “[t]he key issue . . . is whether a reasonable
9 jury would necessarily find that [an officer] perceived an immediate threat of death or serious
10 physical injury at the time” the officer used deadly force. *Gonzalez*, 747 F.3d at 794. “All
11 determinations of unreasonable force ‘must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are
12 often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and
13 rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.’” *Henrich*,
14 39 F.3d at 914 (quoting *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396-97).

15 To determine whether Mr. Craig posed an immediate threat, the Court must first determine
16 the relevant facts. *See Scott*, 550 U.S. at 377. Because this issue is before the Court on summary
17 judgment, the Court is “required to view the facts and draw reasonable inferences in the light most
18 favorable to” Mrs. Craig, the nonmoving party, when there is a genuine dispute of fact. *Id.* at 378,
19 380 (internal quotation marks omitted). Here, it is undisputed that Sgt. Ulrich was positioned to
20 the right of the door between the garage and the house after Sgt. Ulrich kicked in the door, while
21 Deputy Weyhrauch was positioned to the left of the door. Ulrich Dep. at 71:7-11, 71:19-20;
22 Weyhrauch Dep. at 55:23-56:1. It is undisputed that at the time Sgt. Ulrich fired, Sgt. Ulrich was
23 positioned between the trunk of the Craigs’ car and the closed garage door, about eleven feet away
24 from the door between the garage and the house. It is undisputed that the garage was several feet
25 below the house. Def. Exs. S-2, S-3, S-7. It is undisputed that Mr. Craig then came into the
26 officers’ view, walking slowly toward the garage while holding a gun down at his side in his right
27 hand. Weyhrauch Dep. at 67:10-13, 68:3-5; Ulrich Dep. at 80:1-5; Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at
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1 42:15-23; Mrs. Craig Dep. at 84:7-10.

2 All four officers testified that at least Deputy Weyhrauch, if not also Sgt. Ulrich, yelled
3 “drop the gun” multiple times. Weyhrauch Dep. at 68:18-24, 69:24-25; Ulrich Dep. at 72:6,
4 72:13-19, 73:11; Laguardia Dep. at 81:9-22; Reyes Dep. at 54:6-14, 57:4-10. Although Mrs.
5 Craig stated that she never heard the officers say anything until after the shooting, *see, e.g.*, Mrs.
6 Craig Interview at 61:6-13, this testimony is not enough to create a genuine dispute of fact because
7 the audio from the patrol SUV’s dash camera shows that the officers yelled while in the garage
8 just prior to the shooting, even it is not clear what they yelled. Def. Ex. N-1. Thus, because Mrs.
9 Craig’s account—that the officers said nothing—is contradicted by the video evidence, the Court
10 finds that there is no genuine dispute that the officers commanded Mr. Craig to drop his gun. *See*
11 *Scott*, 550 U.S. at 380-81.

12 It is undisputed that Mr. Craig did not drop his gun and that he continued to advance
13 slowly toward the garage. Weyhrauch Dep. at 69:3-11, 70:6-9. Mr. Craig then moved out of
14 Deputy Weyhrauch’s field of vision due to the angle of the door and Deputy Weyhrauch’s
15 position. Weyhrauch Dep. at 69:12-13, 71:7-15. Deputy Weyhrauch testified that while Mr.
16 Craig was in Deputy Weyhrauch’s field of vision, Deputy Weyhrauch did not see Mr. Craig raise
17 the gun. Weyhrauch Dep. at 71:16-20, 72:2-4.

18 Sgt. Ulrich and Mrs. Craig dispute whether Mr. Craig pointed the gun at Sgt. Ulrich. Sgt.
19 Ulrich testified that he briefly looked down at his radio and when he looked up, Mr. Craig was
20 pointing the gun at Sgt. Ulrich with his finger on the trigger. Ulrich Dep. 77:7-11. In her
21 interview the night of the shooting, a video of the relevant part of which the Court has viewed,
22 Mrs. Craig also said that Mr. Craig pointed his gun and demonstrated by holding her arm
23 perpendicular to her body. Def. Ex. R. Mrs. Craig also said that she believed Mr. Craig had fired
24 his gun, which is consistent with Sgt. Ulrich’s account that Mr. Craig had raised the gun and
25 almost squeezed the trigger. Mrs. Craig Interview at 52:25-53:4, 94:20-95:4.

26 However, in her deposition more than a year later, Mrs. Craig offered several different
27 versions of events. Mrs. Craig said that Mr. Craig was holding the gun at his side, “not the
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1 pointed [sic].” Mrs. Craig. Dep. at 82:3-4. Mrs. Craig then said, “Point it at the last minute.
2 That’s all. Never point at the people.” *Id.* at 82:6-7. Defendants’ counsel asked, “At the last
3 minute, he pointed it?” *Id.* at 82:8. Mrs. Craig responded, “Yeah.” *Id.* at 82:9. Mrs. Craig’s
4 counsel then asked, “Where did he point it last second?” *Id.* at 82:11-12. Mrs. Craig responded,
5 “I think just maybe there (indicating). That’s all. Pointed it. Maybe towards here (indicating). I
6 don’t know. Maybe here.” *Id.* at 82:13-15. The video of this portion of the deposition shows that
7 Mrs. Craig indicated pointing a gun down, but she also pointed up and waved her hand around.
8 Def. Ex. I. Shortly thereafter, Defendants’ counsel again asked, “Now, at some point, did Gene
9 lift the gun up?” Mrs. Craig Dep. at 84:17. Mrs. Craig responded, “No, I don’t think so.” *Id.* at
10 84:18. Mrs. Craig then explained, “No, I don’t see that, but I don’t think so, no. Because no mark
11 or no nothing. Bullet, there are no mark or bullets. Only the police bullet in the home.” *Id.* at
12 84:20-22.

13 The Court finds that Mrs. Craig’s deposition testimony does not create a *genuine* dispute of
14 material fact about whether Mr. Craig pointed the gun at Sgt. Ulrich. The Ninth Circuit has held
15 that where a plaintiff’s deposition testimony “is uncorroborated and self-serving” and “flatly
16 contradicts both her prior sworn statements and the [other] evidence,” there is not ““sufficient
17 disagreement to require submission to a jury.”” *Kennedy v. Applause, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1477, 1481
18 (9th Cir. 1996) (quoting *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 251-52); *see also Wang v. Sony Pictures Entm’t, Inc.*, 721 F. App’x 634, 636 (9th Cir. 2018) (stating that courts may exclude “testimony that flatly
19 contradicts earlier testimony in an attempt to ‘create’ an issue of fact and avoid summary
20 judgment” (quoting *Kennedy v. Allied Mut. Ins. Co.*, 952 F.2d 262, 267 (9th Cir. 1991))). For
21 example, in *United States v. JP Morgan Chase Bank Account Number Ending 8215 in Name of
22 Ladislao v. Samaniego, VL: \$446,377.36*, 835 F.3d 1159 (9th Cir. 2016), the claimants in a civil
23 forfeiture action made shifting, contradictory claims to ownership of the seized property. *Id.* at
24 1164-65. Specifically, the claimants first asserted that the money belonged to them, then stated in
25 their depositions that the money belonged to two other individuals. The claimants then submitted
26 declarations that reasserted ownership interest in the funds. *Id.* The Ninth Circuit held that the
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1 “district court did not err when it found Claimants’ assertions of ownership to be no more than
2 back-pedaling, ‘late-in-the-day declarations’ insufficient to create a genuine dispute as to the
3 ownership of the funds.” *Id.* at 1165.

4 This Court applied the same principle in *Watkins v. City of San Jose*, 2017 WL 1739159, at
5 *13 (N.D. Cal. May 4, 2017). In *Watkins*, police fatally shot a man, Watkins, who was charging
6 them with a knife. Immediately after the shooting, Watkins’ fiancee’s mother told the police that
7 the man was running toward the officers. *Id.* However, in a later deposition, Watkins’ fiancee’s
8 mother testified that Watkins ran toward the police and then stopped, but she could not remember
9 whether Watkins started running again. *Id.* at *13-14. The Court found that the testimony that
10 Watkins stopped running was contradicted by all of the other evidence in the record, including the
11 same witness’s prior testimony. The Court also found that the deposition testimony “did not
12 actually contradict the position that Decedent was moving towards the officer with a knife when
13 he was shot” because the witness could not remember whether Watkins started running again. *Id.*
14 at *14. The Court thus concluded that there was no genuine dispute of fact.

15 Here, Mrs. Craig’s deposition testimony that Mr. Craig did not point the gun at the officers
16 flatly contradicts the other evidence, including her prior statement taken the night of the shooting
17 and the accounts that Sgt. Ulrich gave in his interview and deposition. Mrs. Craig’s deposition
18 testimony is also uncorroborated. *See Kennedy*, 90 F.3d at 1481. In addition, the Court finds that
19 Mrs. Craig’s deposition testimony is equivocal and internally contradictory. For example, Mrs.
20 Craig said that Mr. Craig did not point the gun, but she also said that he pointed it at the last
21 minute. When asked where Mr. Craig pointed the gun, Mrs. Craig equivocated, “I think just
22 maybe there,” “[m]aybe towards here,” “I don’t know,” and “[m]aybe here.” Mrs. Craig Dep. at
23 83:13-15. *See generally Olvera v. County of Sacramento*, 932 F. Supp. 2d 1123, 1150 (E.D. Cal.
24 2013) (finding that equivocal deposition testimony, without more, did not create a genuine issue of
25 material fact); *see also Bond v. Knoll*, 2014 WL 7076901, at *8 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2014)
26 (collecting cases for same proposition). Moreover, Mrs. Craig seems to explain that she believed
27 that Mr. Craig did not point the gun at anyone because the evidence indicated that he did not *fire*

1 the gun. *Id.* at 84:21-22 (“Because no mark or no nothing. Bullet, there are no mark or bullets.
2 Only the police bullet in the house.”).

3 Mrs. Craig in her deposition did not explain why she previously told investigators that Mr.
4 Craig pointed the gun or even acknowledge the contradiction. In her Opposition, Mrs. Craig states
5 that the interview with investigators took place late at night, after the shooting, before she knew
6 whether Mr. Craig had survived. Opp’n at 11. Notably, however, Mrs. Craig does not directly
7 argue that she was confused at the time of her first interview, or that upon reflection she believed
8 that her statements during the first interview were incorrect. Mrs. Craig also argues that the way
9 in which the investigator asked the question was leading. *Id.* Based on the videotape of the
10 interview, the Court disagrees that the investigator’s question was leading. The investigator
11 presented Mrs. Craig with two options in an attempt to clarify her position: was Mr. Craig holding
12 the gun in front of him, or down at his side? The investigator demonstrated both options with his
13 arm and did not suggest a correct answer in the way he phrased the question. Mrs. Craig
14 immediately responded, “I think pointing,” and raised her arm and pointed her finger and thumb
15 like a gun at the interviewer. Def. Ex. R. Accordingly, the Court finds that Mrs. Craig’s
16 subsequent equivocal, internally inconsistent deposition testimony is not sufficient to create a
17 genuine dispute of fact that Mr. Craig pointed the gun at Sgt. Ulrich. *See Matsushita Elec. Indus.*
18 *Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986) (stating that to survive summary judgment,
19 the nonmoving party “must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to
20 the material facts”).

21 “When an individual points his gun ‘in the officers’ direction,’ the Constitution
22 undoubtedly entitles the officer to respond with deadly force.” *George*, 736 F.3d at 838 (quoting
23 *Long*, 511 F.3d at 906); *see also Easley v. City of Riverside*, 890 F.3d 851, 857 (9th Cir. 2018)
24 (finding that a reasonable officer may reasonably have feared for his safety where the officer’s
25 partner shouted “he’s got a gun” and the suspect grabbed his waistband, withdrew an object from
26 his pocket, and threw it); *Gonzales v. City of Antioch*, 697 F. App’x 900, 901 (9th Cir. 2017)
27 (“The fact that Gonzales only momentarily raised the gun and then lowered it as he was retreating

1 toward the garage does not create a genuine factual dispute as to whether the force used was
2 reasonable."); *Henrich*, 39 F.3d at 914 (finding no constitutional violation where police shot
3 decedent after decedent pointed a "long gun" at police officers); Def. Ex. X (Clark Dep.), ECF No.
4 66-1 at 112:19-113:3, 119:16-18, 129:23-130:5 (Mrs. Craig's police tactics expert conceding that
5 Sgt. Ulrich was justified in shooting to protect himself if Mr. Craig pointed the gun).

6 This is particularly so when the officer, like Sgt. Ulrich here, has no clear line of retreat.
7 *See Sheehan*, 135 S. Ct. at 1775 (holding that use of potentially deadly force was justified where
8 woman with a knife was only a few feet from a cornered officer); *Mace v. City of Palestine*, 333
9 F.3d 621, 624-25 (5th Cir. 2003) (holding use of deadly force to be reasonable where "close
10 quarters of a mobile home park . . . limited the officers' ability to retreat"); *see also* Clark Dep. at
11 108:17-109:16 (Mrs. Craig's police tactics expert agreeing that an inability to retreat can justify an
12 officer's use of force in certain circumstances). Accordingly, the Court finds that Sgt. Ulrich had
13 probable cause to believe that Mr. Craig was an immediate danger because Mr. Craig, standing
14 several feet above and between ten and twenty feet away from Sgt. Ulrich, pointed his gun at Sgt.
15 Ulrich after ignoring the officers' commands to drop the gun. Sgt. Ulrich, who was standing in
16 the narrow space between the Craigs' car and the garage door, had no line of retreat.

17 **iv. Other Factors**

18 Mrs. Craig argues that the officers should have first pursued non-lethal options, such as a
19 "surround and call out" or at least bringing a non-lethal force option with them as they forced
20 entry into the house. Opp'n at 20. However, under the Fourth Amendment, "[o]fficers need not
21 avail themselves of the least intrusive means of responding to an exigent situation; they need only
22 act within that range of conduct [the courts have identified] as reasonable." *Glenn*, 673 F.3d at
23 876 (internal quotation and citation omitted). In that regard, an officer must "consider what other
24 tactics if any were available," and only "if there were clear, reasonable and less intrusive
25 alternatives to the force employed," does this factor weigh "against finding the use of force
26 reasonable." *See id.* (internal quotation and citation omitted).

27 This is not a case where officers arrived on a scene and immediately deployed lethal force.

1 Instead, the officers attempted to make contact with the Craigs for about forty-five minutes by
2 knocking on the front and back doors and all the windows in the house and repeatedly announcing
3 their presence, trying to open the front door using a key, having a neighbor knock and call out, and
4 having dispatch call the Craigs' home phone. *See* Ulrich Dep. at 80:16-23. Sgt. Ulrich explained
5 that he did not believe a surround and call out, in which officers establish a perimeter around the
6 house and use the PA system to address the occupants, would be appropriate because there was no
7 indication that the Craigs were barricading themselves in the house. *See* Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich
8 Interview) at 71:6-16. Moreover, Mrs. Craig does not explain why a surround and call out would
9 have been likely to lead to a different result than the officers' repeated knocking and announcing.

10 Once the officers decided to force entry into the home, Mrs. Craig contends that it was
11 unreasonable for Sgt. Ulrich to bring only lethal force because there was a non-lethal option
12 available. While Mrs. Craig may be correct that it would have been the best practice to also bring
13 non-lethal force while the officers forced entry, the failure to do so in these particular
14 circumstances does not render the force that Sgt. Ulrich ultimately did use unreasonable for
15 purposes of the Fourth Amendment because once Sgt. Ulrich decided to use force, only lethal
16 force was available. *See Sheehan*, 135 S. Ct. at 1775 ("Nothing in the Fourth Amendment barred
17 Reynolds and Holder from protecting themselves, even though it meant firing multiple rounds.");
18 *Forrett v. Richardson*, 112 F.3d 416, 420 (9th Cir. 1997) ("The Fourth Amendment does not
19 require law enforcement officers to exhaust every alternative before using justifiable deadly
20 force."). As a result, the availability or lack thereof of non-lethal force to the officers in the garage
21 is not material to the ultimate issue of whether the force Sgt. Ulrich used was reasonable under the
22 Fourth Amendment.

23 Finally, Mrs. Craig faults Sgt. Ulrich for failing to specifically warn Mr. Craig that Sgt.
24 Ulrich would use lethal force if Mr. Craig did not comply with the commands to drop the gun.
25 Opp'n at 21. It is true that "whenever practicable, a warning must be given before deadly force is
26 employed." *Harris*, 126 F.3d at 1201. However, the Court finds that the officers' command to
27 "drop the gun" was sufficient warning in these circumstances. The court in *Cosentino v. Kurtz*,

1 2013 WL 1927119 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 16, 2013), considered a similar argument. In *Cosentino*,
2 officers, with guns drawn, repeatedly shouted at a man wielding an axe to “drop the axe” and
3 “drop it” before shooting him about twenty seconds later when he failed to comply. The court
4 reasoned that “[w]hile it may be the case that the Officers could have said ‘stop’ or ‘stop or we’ll
5 shoot,’ the Court is aware of no authority mandating the literal words officers must use in the short
6 heat of the moment, facing an immediate threat. Certainly, from the Officers’ perspective,
7 repeatedly shouting ‘drop the axe’ with guns drawn and fixed, conveyed ‘stop or we’ll shoot.’”
8 *Id.* at *8. The court also noted that it “must remain cognizant of ‘the fact that police officers are
9 often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and
10 rapidly evolving.’” *Id.* (quoting *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 397). The court in *Cosentino* thus found
11 that the “warnings were sufficient in the circumstances.” *Id.* This Court finds the reasoning in
12 *Cosentino* persuasive and applicable to the instant case. Thus, because the encounter lasted only a
13 matter of seconds and the officers yelled “sheriff’s office, drop the gun,” with their guns drawn,
14 the Court finds that their warnings were sufficient in the circumstances.

15 **b. Conclusion as to Reasonableness of Use of Force**

16 Based on the totality of the circumstances, the Court concludes that Sgt. Ulrich used
17 deadly force in response to what a reasonable officer would have perceived as an imminent risk of
18 death or serious bodily harm. As a result, Sgt. Ulrich’s use of deadly force did not violate Mr.
19 Craig’s Fourth Amendment rights as a matter of law. Thus, Sgt. Ulrich is entitled to qualified
20 immunity. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendants’ motion for summary judgment as to the
21 § 1983 claim for excessive force.

22 **B. *Monell* Claims**

23 Mrs. Craig argues that the County is liable under *Monell v. Department of Social Services*,
24 436 U.S. 658 (1978), based on an unconstitutional custom, practice, or policy or a failure to train.
25 Opp’n at 23. Mrs. Craig in her Opposition does not identify any particular unconstitutional
26 custom, practice, or policy. With respect to failure to train, Mrs. Craig argues that the County
27 failed to train Sgt. Ulrich on when it would be appropriate to use less-than-lethal force and failed
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1 to require Sgt. Ulrich to take a 40-hour crisis intervention training. However, “[i]f no
2 constitutional violation occurred, the municipality cannot be held liable.” *Long*, 511 F.3d at 907.
3 The Ninth Circuit specifically held in *Long* that “[i]f there was no constitutional violation of . . .
4 rights, there is ‘no basis for finding the officers inadequately trained.’” *Id.* (quoting *Henrich*, 39
5 F.3d at 916). Accordingly, because the Court has determined that no constitutional violation
6 occurred here, Mrs. Craig’s *Monell* claims fail as a matter of law. The Court thus GRANTS
7 Defendants’ motion for summary judgment on the *Monell* claims.

8 **C. State Law Claims**

9 “[T]he doctrine of qualified immunity does not shield defendants from state law claims.”
10 *C.V. ex rel. Villegas v. City of Anaheim*, 823 F.3d 1252, 1257 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Johnson v.*
11 *Bay Area Rapid Transit. Dist.*, 724 F.3d 1159, 1171 (9th Cir. 2013)) (alteration in original).
12 Accordingly, the Court turns to Mrs. Craig’s state law claims.

13 **1. Bane Act Claim**

14 The Bane Act “was enacted in 1987 to address hate crimes” and “protects individuals from
15 conduct aimed at interfering with rights that are secured by federal or state law, where the
16 interference is carried out by threats, intimidation, or coercion.” *Reese v. County of Sacramento*,
17 888 F.3d 1030, 1040 (9th Cir. 2018) (internal quotation marks omitted). “Section 52.1 ‘provides a
18 cause of action for violations of a plaintiff’s state or federal civil rights committed by threats,
19 intimidation, or coercion.’” *Id.* (quoting *Chaudhry v. City of Los Angeles*, 751 F.3d 1096, 1105
20 (9th Cir. 2014)). “Claims under section 52.1 may be brought against public officials who are
21 alleged to interfere with protected rights, and qualified immunity is not available for those claims.”
22 *Id.* at 1040-41. To establish a Bane Act claim, Mrs. Craig must ultimately prove “(1) a violation
23 of a ‘state or federal constitutional or legal right’; and (2) that the violation was achieved through
24 ‘threats, intimidation, or coercion.’” *Inman v. Anderson*, 294 F. Supp. 3d 907, 928 (N.D. Cal.
25 2018) (quoting *Allen v. City of Sacramento*, 234 Cal. App. 4th 41, 67 (2015)).

26 Although there had been a dispute among California Courts of Appeal and district courts
27 within the Ninth Circuit about whether the Bane Act “required a showing of coercion independent
28

1 of the coercion inherent" in a § 1983 excessive force claim, the Ninth Circuit recently adopted a
2 position on this issue that binds this Court. Specifically, in *Reese*, 888 F.3d 1030, the Ninth
3 Circuit followed the California Court of Appeal's decision in *Cornell v. City and County of San*
4 *Francisco*, 17 Cal. App. 5th 766 (2017), which clarified that "[n]othing in the text of the [Bane
5 Act] requires that the offending 'threat, intimidation or coercion' be independent from the
6 constitutional violation alleged.'" *Reese*, 888 F.3d at 1043 (quoting *Cornell*, 255 Cal. Rptr. 3d at
7 383). The Ninth Circuit went on:

8 *Cornell* also makes clear, however, that the Bane Act imposes an
9 additional requirement beyond a finding of a constitutional violation.
10 *Cornell* explained that "[p]roperly read, the statutory phrase 'threat,
11 intimidation or coercion' serves as an aggravator justifying the conclusion
12 that the underlying violation of rights is sufficiently egregious to warrant
13 enhanced statutory remedies, beyond tort relief." *Id.* at 383. Accordingly,
14 *Cornell* held that "the egregiousness required by Section 52.1 is tested by
15 whether the circumstances indicate the arresting officer had a specific
16 intent to violate the arrestee's right to freedom from unreasonable
17 seizure." *Id.* at 384. In so holding, *Cornell* adopted the specific intent
18 standard established in *Screws v. United States*, 325 U.S. 91 (1945), for
19 assessing criminal violations of federal civil rights. 225 Cal. Rptr. 3d at
20 384-85.

21 *Reese*, 888 F.3d at 1043.

22 Accordingly, the Ninth Circuit held that "the Bane Act does not require the threat,
23 intimidation or coercion element of the claim to be transactionally independent from the
24 constitutional violation alleged," but the Bane Act does require "a specific intent to violate the
25 arrestee's right to freedom from unreasonable seizure." *Id.* (internal quotation marks omitted).
26 "Evidence simply showing that an officer's conduct amounts to a constitutional violation under an
27 'objectively reasonable' standard is insufficient to satisfy the additional intent requirement under
28 the Bane Act." *Losee v. City of Chico*, --- F. App'x ---, 2018 WL 3016891, at *2 (9th Cir. June
18, 2018) (citing *Reese*, 888 F.3d at 1045). "Rather, [the plaintiff] must show that [the officer]
'intended not only the force, but its unreasonableness, its character as more than necessary under
the circumstances.'" *Id.* (quoting *Reese*, 888 F.3d at 1045).

29 Mrs. Craig argues that "a reasonable jury could find that Sgt. Ulrich violated the Bane Act

1 in at least three ways: (1) intentionally entering the curtilage and kicking in the door leading into
2 the garage; (2) failing to provide knock-notice before kicking in the door to the home's living
3 quarters; and (3) intentionally and unlawfully shooting Mr. Craig dead in violation of the Fourth
4 Amendment[]." Opp'n at 24. Because the Court has determined that the officers' entry into the
5 Craigs' garage and home and Sgt. Ulrich's use of force did not violate the Fourth Amendment,
6 Mrs. Craig's Bane Act claim fails for lack of an underlying Fourth Amendment violation. Mrs.
7 Craig in her Opposition fails to identify any other underlying constitutional or statutory violations.
8 Even if she had identified some other underlying violation of a right, Mrs. Craig has not identified
9 any evidence that Sgt. Ulrich had the specific intent required to establish a Bane Act claim. Thus,
10 Defendant's motion for summary judgment is GRANTED as to the Bane Act claim.

11 **2. Wrongful Death Negligence Claim**

12 Mrs. Craig asserts a wrongful death negligence claim against Sgt. Ulrich and, vicariously,
13 the County. Under California law, public employees "are statutorily liable to the same extent as
14 private persons for injuries caused by their acts or omissions, subject to the same defenses
15 available to private persons." *Hayes v. County of San Diego*, 305 P.3d 252, 255 (Cal. 2013); *see also* Cal. Gov. Code § 820. In addition, "public entities are generally liable for injuries caused by
16 the negligence of their employees acting within the scope of their employment." *Hayes*, 305 P.3d
17 at 255; *see also* Cal. Gov. Code § 815.2.

18 "[I]n order to prove facts sufficient to support a finding of negligence, a plaintiff must
19 show that [the] defendant had a duty to use due care, that he breached that duty, and that the
20 breach was the proximate or legal cause of the resulting injury." *Hayes*, 305 P.3d at 255 (quoting
21 *Nally v. Grace Community Church*, 763 P.2d 948 (Cal. 1988)) (alterations in *Hayes*). "In
22 California, police officers 'have a duty to act reasonably when using deadly force.'" *Vos v. City of*
23 *Newport Beach*, 892 F.3d 1024, 1037 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *Hayes*, 305 P.3d at 256). "To
24 determine police liability, a court applies tort law's 'reasonable care' standard, which is distinct
25 from the Fourth Amendment's 'reasonableness' standard." *Vos*, 892 F.3d at 1037 (citing *Hayes*,
26 305 P.3d at 262). "The Fourth Amendment is narrower and 'plac[es] less emphasis on
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1 preshooting conduct.” *Id.* (quoting *Hayes*, 305 P.3d at 262) (alteration in original); *see also* C.V.,
2 823 F.3d at 1257 n.6 (9th Cir. 2016) (noting that “state negligence law . . . is broader than federal
3 Fourth Amendment law”). Accordingly, under California law, “tactical conduct and decisions
4 preceding the use of deadly force” may “give[] rise to negligence liability” if they “show, as part
5 of the totality of circumstances, that the use of deadly force was unreasonable.” *Hayes*, 305 P.3d
6 at 263.

7 However, “[a]s long as an officer’s conduct falls within the range of conduct that is
8 reasonable under the circumstances, there is no requirement that he or she choose the ‘most
9 reasonable’ action or the conduct that is the least likely to cause harm and at the same time the
10 most likely to result in” success of the officer’s objective. *Id.* at 258 (quoting *Brown v.*
11 *Ransweiler*, 171 Cal. App. 4th 516, 537-38 (2009)) (alteration in *Hayes*). Moreover, like in the
12 Fourth Amendment context, the reasonableness of a particular use of force under California
13 negligence law “must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather
14 than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight.” *Id.* (quoting *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396).

15 Mrs. Craig contends that a jury could conclude that Sgt. Ulrich acted negligently “by
16 violating Defendant County’s policies, his training, and generally accepted law enforcement
17 standards as presented by expert testimony.” Opp’n at 25. Mrs. Craig points out that her police
18 practices expert, Roger Clark, opined that Sgt. Ulrich’s tactical decisions leading up to the
19 shooting contributed to Mr. Craig’s death. *Id.* The Court notes that much of Mr. Clark’s report
20 and testimony is devoted to analyzing whether the officers had probable cause to enter the Craigs’
21 home without a warrant. *See* Pl. Ex. G (Clark Report), ECF No. 60-7 at 17-27. In light of the
22 Court’s determination, above, that the officers’ entry was permitted under the emergency aid
23 exception, Mr. Clark’s opinions on probable cause are not material. However, other parts of Mr.
24 Clark’s report and testimony, together with other undisputed evidence of record, are sufficient to
25 raise a genuine dispute of material fact about the reasonableness under California negligence law
26 of Sgt. Ulrich’s tactical decisions about how to force entry of the Craigs’ house.

27 Specifically, Mr. Clark opined that once the officers decided that they were going to force
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1 entry, the officers should have brought in a SWAT unit or a Crisis Response Team, either of
2 which would have had gear and tools needed for the situation that the officers on the scene did not
3 have. Clark Dep. at 114:17-25, 121:9-16, 123:1-8. Specifically, a SWAT unit or Crisis Response
4 Team would have ballistic shields, different types of less-than-lethal force, and a tool called a pick
5 to pry the front door open. *Id.* at 114:25-115:3. Mr. Clark explained that prying the front door
6 open and entering that way would have been preferable because “the garage is so congested and
7 littered and doesn’t give them free movement.” *Id.* at 115:3-6. Those teams also would have had
8 “small, camera-type, flexible optics that can go into a small area and expose who is in the room
9 and what they are doing.” *Id.* at 115:8-10.

10 In addition, with respect to the entry itself, Mr. Clark opined that the manner in which the
11 officers forced entry was “fraught with problems,” including that the officers failed to consider
12 using any less-than-lethal weapons and failed to bring any less-than-lethal weapons with them
13 when they forced entry. Clark Dep. at 62:10-12, 62:25-63:2. According to Mr. Clark, the
14 “professional wisdom is if you think you have somebody who could be armed and use that
15 weapon, that – and that you’re going to create a confrontation . . . you’re not going to do it the way
16 they did it, and you are going to have less lethal.” *Id.* at 63:18-25. In his report, Mr. Clark opines
17 that the officers’ failure to consider, equip, or deploy any type of less-than-lethal weapons during
18 the forced entry of the Craigs’ residence was “a clear violation of policy and POST³ training.”
19 Clark Report at 14; *see also* Clark Dep. at 64:5-17 (identifying relevant policy as the Use of Lethal
20 Force Policy and the relevant POST section as Chapter 3 of POST Learning Domain Number 20);
21 *id.* at 66:15-67:1 (also identifying relevant POST learning domains of Crimes in Progress and
22 Patrol Techniques).

23 Specifically, Mr. Clark stated at his deposition that the officers should have brought
24 “kinetic weapons such as [a] bean bag shotgun, OC spray, [or] Taser.” Clark Dep. at 65:4-6. If
25 the officers did not have such less-than-lethal weapons available, Mr. Clark opined that the

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27 ³ POST stands for Peace Officer Standards and Training. Def. Ex. X (Clark Dep.), ECF No. 66-1
28 at 24:16-19.

1 officers should have waited to force entry until they had the less-than-lethal weapons. *Id.* at 65:7-
2 10. Mr. Clark also states that the officers should have used “ballistic shields for cover.” *Id.* at
3 65:10. In other words, in Mr. Clark’s view, Sgt. Ulrich put himself in a position where he knew
4 that Mr. Craig had firearms in the home and thus knew that an armed confrontation was possible,
5 yet Sgt. Ulrich failed to bring a ballistic shield for protection and failed to equip himself with
6 anything other than lethal force, which meant that “the only response available [was] lethal force.”
7 *Id.* at 84:4-6. In Mr. Clark’s opinion, these decisions were unreasonable and contrary to standard
8 law enforcement practices. Clark Report at 34, 37.

9 Mr. Clark also opines that the way Sgt. Ulrich positioned himself in the garage was
10 contrary to standard police practice because he had inadequate cover. Clark Dep. at 79:2-5
11 (observing that Sgt. Ulrich could have taken cover behind the car or ordered officers to retreat out
12 of line of fire); *id.* at 82:12-13 (stating that officers should have gotten in best cover that they
13 could have); *id.* at 84:21-85:12 (stating that Sgt. Ulrich “never positioned himself properly”).

14 In sum, Mr. Clark opines that “there were far more reasonable less-than-lethal force
15 options available besides shooting Mr. Craig,” and that Sgt. Ulrich’s “tactical conduct and
16 decisions leading up to the use of deadly force” were “unreasonable, unjustified, [and] out of
17 policy.” Clark Report at 34, 37; Clark Dep. at 132:2-8 (opining that Sgt. Ulrich’s decisions to “do
18 a crisis entry with what we have . . . through this garage, position my personnel where they are,
19 kick this door down and stand in the way” were unreasonable).

20 Defendants argue that, as a matter of law, an expert’s opinion that the officers’ actions
21 were unreasonable cannot alone create a genuine dispute of material fact sufficient to survive
22 summary judgment. *See Reply at 11* (citing *Billington v. Smith*, 292 F.3d 1177, 1189 (9th Cir.
23 2002), abrogated on other grounds by *County of Los Angeles v. Mendez*, 137 S. Ct. 1539 (2017)).
24 Whether or not this is a correct statement of law, it does not preclude the Court from finding a
25 genuine dispute of material fact in the instant case because a reasonable jury could combine Mr.
26 Clark’s opinion with other evidence in the record to conclude that Sgt. Ulrich’s preshooting
27 actions were unreasonable under California negligence law. Indeed, the Ninth Circuit has
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1 observed that expert opinion is relevant for establishing the standard of care and has relied on
2 expert opinions combined with other record evidence to reverse orders granting summary
3 judgment on negligence claims. *See, e.g., Young Han v. City of Folsom*, 695 F. App'x 197, 199-
4 200 (9th Cir. 2017) (noting that “[i]t is universally accepted that the standard of care in a particular
5 industry may be established by its practitioners” and reversing grant of summary judgment on
6 negligence claim based in part on expert opinion about generally accepted police practices).

7 Specifically, in addition to Mr. Clark's opinions, it is undisputed that Sgt. Ulrich and
8 Deputy Weyhrauch were qualified to use a less-than-lethal launcher and that the officers had
9 access to a less-than-lethal launcher at the time that they forced entry of the Craigs' home. Pl. Ex.
10 A (Ulrich Dep.), ECF No. 60-1 at 13:11-14:25; Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 46:18-23. In
11 addition, it is undisputed that Deputy Weyhrauch “typically carries a shield” but did not bring the
12 shield into the garage because he instead was carrying a rifle. Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at
13 62:40-9. No other deputies brought a shield, and the deputies did not have any breaching tools
14 when they forced entry. *Id.* at 62:5-13.

15 It is also undisputed that Sgt. Ulrich did not consider using less-than-lethal weapons or
16 discuss less-than-lethal options with the other officers before forcing entry. Pl. Ex. A (Ulrich
17 Dep.) at 67:17-23; Pl. Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 46:15-17, 54:23-55:3. Sgt. Ulrich gave
18 potentially conflicting reasons for this failure to consider less-than-lethal options. Sgt. Ulrich told
19 investigators soon after the incident that he did not consider less-than-lethal options necessary
20 because he did not anticipate encountering any violent resistance from anyone in the home. Pl.
21 Ex. I (Ulrich Interview) at 51:9-21, 55:9-14, 55:17-18. However, in his deposition, Sgt. Ulrich
22 stated that he did not consider using less-than-lethal weapons because “I'm not going to bring a
23 less lethal launcher to somebody who could possibly have firearms.” Ulrich Dep., ECF No. 60-1
24 at 67:24-68:3.

25 Accordingly, interpreting the evidence in the light most favorable to Mrs. Craig and
26 drawing all reasonable inferences in her favor, which the Court must do at summary judgment, the
27 Court concludes that a reasonable jury could find that Sgt. Ulrich's tactical decisions about the

1 manner in which the officers forced entry were unreasonable under California negligence law,
2 which is broader than Fourth Amendment law and places more emphasis on preshooting conduct.
3 Specifically, a reasonable jury could find that, despite the foreseeability of an armed confrontation,
4 Sgt. Ulrich unreasonably decided to force entry through the garage, failed to equip himself with
5 less-than-lethal force, and failed to use a ballistic shield or properly establish a position of cover.
6 A reasonable jury could conclude that these tactical decisions led to the situation in which Sgt.
7 Ulrich's only option was to use lethal force. Thus, while the shooting itself was objectively
8 reasonable under the Fourth Amendment, the totality of the circumstances that led up to the
9 shooting may render the entire sequence unreasonable under California negligence law. Of
10 course, a reasonable jury might also find that Sgt. Ulrich's decisions were within the realm of
11 reasonableness. However, because Mrs. Craig has established a genuine dispute of material fact
12 as to the reasonableness of Sgt. Ulrich's preshooting actions under California negligence law,
13 summary judgment is inappropriate. Defendants' motion for summary judgment is therefore
14 DENIED as to the negligence claim.

15 **3. Battery and Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress Claims**

16 Mrs. Craig also brings a wrongful death battery claim and a bystander emotional distress
17 claim. Similar to negligence, “[u]nder California law, a plaintiff bringing a battery claim against a
18 law enforcement official has the burden of proving the officer used unreasonable force.” *Bowoto*
19 v. *Chevron Corp.*, 621 F.3d 1116, 1129 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing *Edson v. City of Anaheim*, 63 Cal.
20 App. 4th 1269 (1998)); *see also Saman v. Robbins*, 173 F.3d 1150, 1157 n.6 (9th Cir. 1999) (“A
21 prima facie case for battery is not established under California law unless the plaintiff proves that
22 an officer used unreasonable force against him to make a lawful arrest or detention.”).
23 Defendants' only argument in favor of summary judgment on the battery claim is that no
24 reasonable jury could find that Sgt. Ulrich used unreasonable force. Mot. at 25. For the reasons
25 explained above with respect to the negligence claim, the Court disagrees. Accordingly,
26 Defendants' motion for summary judgment is DENIED as to the battery claim.

27 With respect to negligent infliction of emotional distress, “[t]he negligent causing of

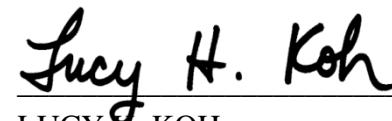
1 emotional distress is not an independent tort, but the tort of negligence.” *Spates v. Dameron*
2 *Hospital Ass’n*, 114 Cal. App. 4th 208, 213 (2003) (quoting *Burgess v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal. 4th
3 1064, 1071-72 (1992)). Thus, the “traditional elements of duty, breach of duty, causation, and
4 damages apply.” *Id.* (quoting *Burgess*, 2 Cal. 4th at 1071-72). “The bystander theory recognizes a
5 duty in the limited class of cases where a plaintiff ‘(1) is closely related to the injury victim, (2) is
6 present at the scene of the injury-producing event at the time it occurs and is then aware that it is
7 causing injury to the victim and, (3) as a result suffers emotional distress beyond that which would
8 be anticipated in a disinterested witness.’” *Id.* (quoting *Thing v. La Chusa*, 48 Cal. 3d 644, 647
9 (1989)). The only argument that Defendants make in favor of summary judgment on the negligent
10 infliction of emotional distress claim is that Defendants were not negligent. Mot. at 25. Because
11 the Court denied summary judgment as to the negligence claim, summary judgment is
12 inappropriate here as well. Thus, Defendants’ motion for summary judgment on the negligent
13 infliction of emotional distress claim is DENIED.

14 **IV. CONCLUSION**

15 For the foregoing reasons, the motion for summary judgment is GRANTED as to the
16 § 1983 claims for Fourth Amendment violations, the *Monell* claims, and the Bane Act claim. The
17 motion for summary judgment is DENIED as to the negligence, battery, and negligent infliction of
18 emotional distress claims.

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20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21
22 Dated: August 9, 2018

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24 
25 LUCY H. KOH
26 United States District Judge

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